



(R45p) 40m

# WHY I'M BACKING BLAIR

by the editor of the Express

## WITH PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

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## news

## significant shorts

## Whitehall to act over lost radioactive dumps

The Government promised yesterday to take action to deal with hundreds of uncharted radioactive dumps left over from the Cold War.

Radioactive material was often buried in landfill sites during the Fifties and Sixties before proper regulations came into force. Now a nuclear engineer has estimated that there are more than 500 such dumps all over the country with radioactive material leaking into the surrounding earth.

Michael Meacher, minister for environmental protection, told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that the Government was going to deal with the problem "as quickly as we can". He said: "It is a significant and serious form of contamination which, in our view, should have been dealt with much earlier." John Large, an independent nuclear engineer, has built up a database of military and civilian installations. Speaking on the same programme, Mr Large said: "You have a series of nuclear facilities in this country, waste tips, contaminated buildings that were never logged on - no caretakers, no regulators."

## Man rescues girls from freak wave

A holidaymaker who rescued two teenage girls after they were swept into the sea by a freak wave at a holiday beach was being hailed as a hero yesterday.

Paul Date, 32, from Hounslow, west London, plunged into the waves at West Bay, Dorset, to pull the two teenagers to safety after they were sucked out by the undertow. "But for him we could have been looking at fatalities," said acting Sergeant David Hughes of the Dorset police. The 17-year-olds, Rebecca Brown and Donna Bracey, from Bristol, were airlifted to Weymouth and District Hospital suffering from water inhalation and slight hypothermia. Donna's 11-year-old sister Carly, who also went into the water, was taken to the same hospital by ambulance suffering from slight hypothermia and shock. A Weymouth hospital spokesman said that the girls were discharged later and were "all fine".

## Bravery award for nursery nurse



A nursery nurse who was stabbed as she shielded children from a machete-wielding attacker will be honoured by her union this week.

Lisa Potts, 21, suffered deep wounds to her back, chest and hands when Horrold Campbell, a paranoid schizophrenic, launched the attack during a teddy bears' picnic at St Luke's school in Wolverhampton last year. Miss Potts will be presented with a certificate of merit for outstanding bravery during Unison's annual conference in Brighton this week.

## Stolen medals found after 14 years

A medal won by a private in the Boer War has been returned to his granddaughter, 14 years after it was stolen from her home.

The South Africa Campaign Medal (1899-1902) was recovered by Operation Bumblebee officers in a £100,000 raid on pawnshop in Lewisham, south-east London. Now Private Samuel Tippet's medal has been given back to his granddaughter, Julie Barnshaw, 57, who owns a pub in Islington, north London.

Also returned were her grandfather's gold-coloured Christmas 1914 tobacco tin, a letter of condolence from George V on his death in the First World War, and a Territorial Campaign medal for Efficient Service given to her father James. Mrs Barnshaw said the medals and memorabilia were among items stolen by burglars from her home in Catford, south-east London, in 1983. "This really brings back how brave they were," she said.

## Pensioner blows up flats

Peggy Seaton, a pensioner, teamed up with the environment minister Hilary Armstrong yesterday to change a city's skyline when they pressed buttons to bring down two 16-storey blocks of flats above a hillside in Sheffield in controlled explosions.

The blast, using 120kgs of explosives which converted the tower blocks into 24,000 tonnes of rubble, came at exactly the same time as the Yorkshire-based contractor Controlled Demolition had arranged to blow down a 10-storey office block 4,000 miles away in Rockville, Montgomery, near Washington DC in the United States.

Charles Moran, managing director of the company, said: "This is the first time we've blown down buildings simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic." Mrs Seaton, 74, was chosen to help Ms Armstrong set off the Sheffield blast because she has lived so long - 32 years - on the Norfolk Park estate where the flats stood. Thousands of people turned out to watch the explosion.

## 007 director aspires to new heights

Roger Spottiswoode, the English director of the latest 007 film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, is preparing to make a £13m film about the battle to build Salisbury Cathedral's immense spire.

The film, based on William Golding's 1965 novel, *The Spire*, will tell the story of the cathedral's 14th-century dean who is obsessed with building a spire for the greater glory of God. Sir Anthony Hopkins was originally cast as the Dean, but became unavailable and Spottiswoode is looking for another British actor to replace him. The as yet untitled movie, to be set in 1325, will be part-funded by £1m of National Lottery money.

## people



Pilgrimage: Mary Robinson, the Irish president, at Iona Abbey yesterday to mark the 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba. The Irish saint founded the abbey in the 6th century and sent missionaries out to preach the gospel; Aherm set for power, page 7. (Photograph: Reuters)

## My regrets, by magistrate who jailed 12-year-old girl

Malcolm Hartley, the magistrate whose decision to send a 12-year-old girl to an adult prison was condemned as "barbaric" expressed regret yesterday, but claimed he had no other choice.

Civil liberties campaigners on the Isle of Man have promised to take the case of the girl, who had not been convicted of any offence and suffers from spina bifida, to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Mr Hartley said the girl, who lived in a children's home, was considered a danger to herself and others.

He said: "I told her that she could be granted bail if she continued to live at the children's home and did not go out unaccompanied. The girl refused to accept these conditions and so I was left with no alternative."

"I have three children and many grandchildren - including a grandson the same age as the girl - and I did not take the decision to send her to the juvenile unit lightly."

The girl is being kept in a cell at special annexe of the prison inside the perimeter wall of Victoria Road Prison

in Douglas. She is kept away from adult inmates but can associate with offenders aged up to 16.

A 15-year-old youth is at the same jail where he is thought to be serving a six-month sentence for assault and theft. A 14-year-old boy awaiting trial was released a few days ago when his parents agreed to take care of him.

A Marx advocate, Terence McDonald, has called for the island's government to carry out urgent reforms. "It is barbaric to lock up children in jail and place them in cells," he said.

Mr Hartley, a member of the prison board, said: "It is a modern unit, with specially trained staff and I believe the girl will receive the care she needs."

The girl, who is not being named, first appeared before Mr Hartley on Tuesday charged with assault and criminal damage. He said: "The police requested a remand in custody and it was considered the girl was in moral danger as she tended to go missing for lengthy periods and the staff at the children's home could not control her."

Kim Sengupta



## Michael Hickey on theft charge

Michael Hickey, one of the Bridgewater Four, was last night back in custody after being charged with theft and carrying an offensive weapon.

Mr Hickey, 36, was arrested in Birmingham city centre on Saturday, said West Midlands police. He was taken to Steelhouse Lane police station and interviewed by detectives before being charged with theft and possessing an offensive weapon.

The charge is thought to be in connection with the alleged theft of a tray of gold rings from the city's Supergold store.

He is being held in custody and is due to appear before magistrates in Birmingham today.

Mr Hickey was one of four men jailed in 1979 for the murder of the paperboy Carl Bridgewater at Yew Tree Farm, Stourbridge.

He was ordered to be detained indefinitely while his cousin Vincent Hickey and James Robinson were given life. Pat Molloy was convicted of manslaughter.

The men, who always protested their innocence, became known as the Bridgewater Four during their campaign to have the convictions quashed.

After a long campaign, they were freed in February when the prosecution accepted that fresh evidence left the case against them fundamentally flawed.

AP - Krakow

## One million turn out for Pope's Krakow return

Pope John Paul II, finally home in "my beloved city," slept in his old home, visited his old school and rejoiced in the cheers of more than one million of his countrymen yesterday in the biggest turnout of his 11-day Polish pilgrimage.

The crowd began arriving shortly after dawn for the major Mass of his Krakow stay, nearly filling the city's vast Błonia meadow.

The Pope proclaimed Poland's 14th-century queen, Hedwig, a saint, holding up her generosity and defence of the common good as examples for today's political leaders. His message was part of his efforts to keep Poles from losing their identity and values in the

transition from a communist to a free-market economy.

While many Poles have expressed fear that this could be the last visit for John Paul, now 77 and slowed by infirmity, church officials suggested he may return next year when he has been invited for the 1,000th anniversary of Gdansk on the Baltic coast.

Although he walked slowly and his voice was weak, the Pontiff managed to hold up his staff to acknowledge chants of "Long live the Pope."

The former Karol Wojtyla spent most of his life as student, priest and archbishop before his election to the papacy. He spent the night in the 17th century archbishop's residence where he lived for 14 years. He also visited Jagiellonian University, where he studied theology in secret after it was closed by the Nazis.

## briefing

## ENVIRONMENT

## Green tax prompts sharp increase in fly-tipping

A green tax designed to reduce waste dumping has caused an increase in fly-tipping, according to a survey published today. Three-quarters of local authorities have reported an increase in the illegal practice since the introduction of the landfill tax last October.

The disposal of waste at landfill sites was taxed at up to £7 per tonne under the measures and was intended to encourage less rubbish being produced. It was also aimed at encouraging recycling and has raised £111m in its first three months.

But in the commercial sector, only one third of waste producers were reducing the amount of taxable waste they produced.

Roger Wood, of Coopers & Lybrand, who carried out the survey, said: "In this double Budget year, the Chancellor has a golden opportunity to make landfill tax a more effective eco-tax than it appears to be at present, with or without raising the rates."

## WILDLIFE

## 'Ratty' at home in the urban jungle

The water vole, once a familiar sight on rural riverbanks and streams, has become a survivor in the urban jungle.

The creature, famed as Ratty in *Wind in the Willows*, has found that living in polluted city waterways gives it an escape route from one of its worst enemies, the American mink.

Scientists working with the Environment Agency and The Wildlife Trusts' Water Volewatch have found that water voles have disappeared from more than two thirds of sites where they once bred.

This is due largely to habitat loss, change in land use, predation by mink and fluctuations in water levels. They have almost vanished from major rivers and now live in headstreams, canals, urban watercourses, drainage dykes, city lakes and even garden ponds.



## EDUCATION

## English children falter in maths

Standards in primary schools will come under the spotlight again this week, with another report showing English children slipping down the international league table.

Nine-year-olds will be shown to be struggling with basic maths, lagging substantially behind children from countries in the Pacific Rim and eastern Europe.

The report came as the Government prepares this week to launch a drive to promote more teaching of the three Rs in primary schools. Ministers have proposed that schools should spend an hour a day on reading and writing.

They are also likely to demand more time for arithmetic in the wake of the latest study of half a million nine-year-olds in 26 countries. Due out on Tuesday, it is expected to show roughly the same results as last year's worldwide survey of 13-year-olds.

The Third International Maths and Science Study found that English 13-year-olds got an average of only 53 per cent of maths questions correct.

## INDUSTRY

## Women behind in computer skills

Only 5 per cent of professional information technology personnel and just one in five computer studies students are women, according to research published today.

There are also indications that the number of female students in computer-related courses is declining in some higher education institutions, IT recruitment consultants DP Connect and Computing magazine found.

Schoolgirls are encouraged to view familiarity with information technology as a means of securing an office job, but not as a career in itself. The study says: "Women IT professionals tended to have entered the industry by accident." Meanwhile, the Watnwright Trust, a charity funded research group into equal opportunities, found that the promotion and recruitment of women in the private sector had been adversely affected by the tendency to devolve decision-making to line managers.

## PETS

## Insurance is best policy for dogs

Pet owners are more likely to insure their dogs than their cats. Canines account for 60 per cent of all pet insurance policies, research by Datamonitor has found, compared with 15 per cent for felines. Horses and ponies fall in the middle, with a quarter of policies aimed at protecting them.

Although Britain is meant to be a nation of animal lovers, the figures show that fewer than one in 10 pets have insurance policies with a total of 168,072 cats, dogs and horses covered.

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# Father doesn't know best

Teenagers want to talk about sex, but not to their dads

Clare Garner

Fathers may think they are doing their offspring a favour by sparing them the embarrassment of talking about sex but, according to new research, they should think again.

A Harris survey on teenagers and promiscuity identifies fathers as the worst offenders in the approachability stakes. Britain's teenagers want to talk more openly about their sexual worries, but three in four feel unable to embark on such a conversation with their fathers.

Parents seem to be suffering in silence, too. While three in four parents say they worry about their teenagers having under-age sex, the same number never talk to their children about important sexual issues.

Even those who talk to their children about sex steer clear of fundamental issues, the survey reveals. Four in 10 parents who say they talk about sex have not mentioned contraception, and three in 10 have never spoken about AIDS. Eight in 10 have never discussed masturbation and the same number have never made any reference to oral sex.

"The majority of parents in Britain are leaving their kids' sex education to chance and letting them drift into early promiscuity," says Steve Chalke, founder of the Oasis Trust, which commissioned the survey, resident family specialist on GMTV, and author of the forthcoming book *How to Succeed as a Parent*.

"Most of the 8,000 under-16s who become pregnant every year in the UK never even wanted to have sex, let alone a baby," he adds. Rather, they had sex, he says, because they "didn't know how to say 'no'". It is a scandal that so many of Britain's parents are exposing their kids to this danger and not even bothering to discuss contraception with them.

Time, says Mr Chalke in the run-up to Father's Day, is the "greatest gift" a father can give his child.

Citing the experts' view that the average father spends three minutes a day in "quality" conversation with his children, Mr Chalke emphasises that he means "quantity time".

"Time to talk. Time to listen. Time to show you care," he says. "If you want to diffuse the teenage time-bomb you have to start talking to them when they're toddlers... The deep issues and important questions - the things that matter most to children - trickle out because a parent is there."

Four out of five teenagers feel unable to talk to their fathers about important issues, sexual or otherwise. They single out *Gazza*, Grant Mitchell of the soap opera, *Eastenders*, and Prince Charles as Britain's worst fathers. Why? Because they do not spend enough time with their children.

Chris Evans, David Wickes, from *Eastenders*, and Terry Duckworth, from *Coronation Street*, also fared badly.

The average child spends three hours a day watching television. Mr Chalke combines this fact with the apparent lack of communication between parents and children and draws the obvious conclusion.

"Instead of being influenced by their parents, they're taking their lead from friends, TV and magazines. So the question isn't 'Are your kids being brainwashed?' It's 'What are your kids' brains being brainwashed by?' If parents don't discuss sex properly they're risking their child's future."

The survey, which was carried out with 675 parents and 675 children in the UK, reveals that six out of 10 parents would be worried if their children were homosexual, and particularly fathers. "So why on earth

can't they sit down and chat about it?" asks Mr Chalke.

The amount fathers worry about this issue varies regionally. Sixty-one per cent of fathers living in Wales and the Midlands would be worried, 54 per cent of those living in London and the South, and 53 per cent of those living in Scotland and the North.

Working-class parents are most worried about their child being gay (61 per cent), while

middle-class parents are least worried (48 per cent) about this eventuality.

In his book, Mr Chalke, himself a father-of-four, offers 10 "survival tips" on how to "thrive on" as opposed to "survive" parenting, starting with "be Realistic - There's no such thing as a perfect parent" and finishing with 10 things you should and should not say to your child.

Leading article, page 14



Across the generations: John Clark, 49, talking to his teenage daughter Martha - but not about sex

Photograph: Adrian Dennis

## 'Children are better off being children'

John Clark and his teenage daughter, Martha, have a close relationship, but not so close that they talk about sex. Neither party would wish it any other way, writes Clare Garner.

"I think it's about respecting boundaries," said Mr Clark, 49, a university lecturer who lives in north London. "I don't think I should be obliged to talk to Martha about sex. I don't think it's necessarily appropriate." He recently overheard two school girls discussing flavoured condoms and oral sex. "Well," he mused, "I'm not going to start talking to Martha about flavoured condoms, quite honestly."

Martha, 16, has never felt the need to talk to her parents about sex. School, she said, has provided her with all the sex education she needs. "I think our school is particularly good on that because it's a girls' school," she said. "We've got a lot of female teachers who want us to know about it."

At 12, she was taught how to put condoms on carrots and every year since, the lessons have become "more serious", focusing in particular on HIV and Aids. Martha said she would tell her parents if she wanted to go on the Pill. "But I wouldn't need their support that much," she hastened to add.

Mr Clark outlined his approach to parenting. "Our family line is that children are better off being children than growing up, which means you don't necessarily talk to them about sex all the time," he said. "That's a good excuse, isn't it?"

He is more concerned with establishing a "good quality relationship" with Martha so that if she needs to talk she can, than spelling out the mechanics of sex.

"The idea of having a set of rules that between the age of 12 and 14 you discuss the various positions of sexual intercourse and alternative forms of contraceptive is ridiculous," he said. He remembered how awkward he felt when he was called upon to explain certain scenes in films and soap operas: "What I had to do is not flee the room - which I was definitely tempted to do."

Even Shakespeare has proved problematic. "We went to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*," he said. "It's very explicit what's happening, that this donkey is having sex with a fairy. What are you going to say about that?"

### Dos and don'ts of parenting

Ten things you SHOULD NOT say to your child:

- 1) "You're so stupid!"
- 2) "Sometimes, I wish you'd never been born!"
- 3) "If only you were more like your brother!"
- 4) "You could do so well, if only..."
- 5) "Look at everything I've given up for you!"
- 6) "Act your age!"
- 7) "Don't be silly, there's nothing to be frightened of!"
- 8) "Wait until your father gets home!"
- 9) "You have no idea what you're talking about!"
- 10) "You always/never..."

Ten things you SHOULD say to your child:

- 1) "I'm so proud of you, well done!"
- 2) "You're so thoughtful..."
- 3) "You're clever to have worked that out!"
- 4) "I love you."
- 5) "What do you think about...?"
- 6) "It's OK to cry."
- 7) "You tried your best, and that's what counts."
- 8) "It's OK to make mistakes."
- 9) "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"
- 10) "I said NO!"



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### What the survey found

Main points of survey:

- Three out of four parents have been worried about their teenagers having under-age sex.
- One in two teenagers have sex before 16.
- Three in four parents never talk to their children about important sexual issues.
- Three in four teenagers cannot talk to their fathers about important sexual issues.
- Four in five teenagers cannot talk to their fathers about important issues (regardless of whether or not they are sexual).
- Eight in 10 parents haven't discussed masturbation.
- Eight in 10 parents haven't discussed oral sex.
- Four in 10 parents haven't discussed contraception.
- Three in ten parents haven't discussed Aids.

## Ecstasy fear as two die at raves

Michael Streeter

Police are investigating the deaths at the weekend of two young people who may have taken the drug ecstasy.

Early yesterday, a 17-year-old boy died just five hours after collapsing at a rave party in Skegness, Lincolnshire. John Wainwright died in hospital after lapsing into a "semi-conscious state", according to police. Inspector Graham Marsh, of the Lincolnshire force, said

initial inquiries suggested the teenager from Grimsby had taken an ecstasy tablet. "We suspect from our inquiries so far that this is the result of taking an illegal substance. Although an illegal substance examination has not been conducted, from inquiries we have carried out so far, we believe that substance may be ecstasy."

Det Insp Martin Bontoft, who accompanied John's parents when they formally identified their son's body, said:

"There seems to be little doubt he has taken drugs. The parents are grief-stricken. I don't think the shock has sunk in yet, but what can you say?"

He added: "The nature of the death is a classic reaction of the body to ecstasy and I would be surprised if it turned out to be anything else."

A spokesman for the Active Corporation, which organised the event at the Fantasy Island complex in Ingoldmells, near Skegness, said: "There is very

little to say at this time and we will not be issuing a statement until tomorrow." The rave is believed to have been attended by 300 partygoers.

In a separate incident, a man - believed to be aged between 20 and 22 years old - was taken to hospital from an all-night rave event in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, but attempts to revive him failed and he was certified dead at 11.25pm on Saturday. The coroner has been informed.

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## news

# Boost for Clarke in Tory survey

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke is expected to win a ballot of constituency party chairmen today on the eve of the election among 164 Tory MPs for the Conservative Party leadership.

The results of the ballot to be announced tomorrow will give Mr Clarke's bandwagon a huge boost by putting pressure on Tory MPs to back the former Chancellor in the secrecy of the first ballot.

William Hague is expected to come second in the ballot of Tory constituency chairmen, who will cast their votes by telephone using secret pin numbers.

The results, to be announced immediately before MPs vote, could increase the demands for a re-run of the election, if the MPs ignore the views of the constituencies and elect one of the outright Euro-sceptic right-wing candidates, Michael Howard, Peter Lilley or John Redwood.

The right-wing camps will meet after MPs vote tomorrow morning to thrash out a deal to stop Mr Clarke or Mr Hague, amid continuing speculation that Baroness Thatcher would prefer a more Euro-sceptic leader.

Mr Lilley called on the third and fourth candidates to drop out of the race for the second ballot, to avoid the right-wing vote being split. But in a move which could help Mr Clarke, Mr Redwood, the most outspoken opponent of European monetary union, said he intended to "go on" until he won the argument for ruling out the single currency.

Mr Clarke who is trying to convince the Euro-sceptics to vote for him, as a "big hitter"

against Tony Blair, offered the right no concessions yesterday in his pro-European views.

The ex-Chancellor, who last week called for delay of the single currency, on BBC Television's *On the Record* programme refused to commit himself to a referendum on the single currency beyond the lifetime of this Parliament.

All the camps yesterday were trying to talk-up their support. Mr Lilley and Mr Howard were believed to be neck-and-neck for third place.

Mr Clarke won the backing of the former cabinet minister, John MacGregor, while the Hague camp won the endorsement of Charles Lewington, former head of communications at the Conservative Central Office during the election.

Mr Lewington became the first "insider" to break cover over the election debacle, by writing in the *Sunday Telegraph* that John Major had admitted two weeks before the election that the Conservatives could not win and that frustration over the civil war in his party plunged the ex-Prime Minister into "black moods" and he would "lash out at those closest to him".

After Edwina Currie destroyed Mr Major's pre-election rally in Bath by urging him to quit early if the Tories lost the election, Mr Major told Mr Lewington: "I am sorry you have to deal with these people." After a pause, Mr Major added, "Sometimes I don't know why I bother."

Sporting Index, the spread-betting organisation, said Mr Clarke is ahead with punters betting on the ex-Chancellor getting 58-62 votes in the first ballot; Mr Hague 33-37; Mr Howard 25-29; Mr Lilley 21-25; and Mr Redwood 17-20.

## Deputy prime minister has a whale of a time



John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, taking the plunge in the North Sea yesterday at Whitley Bay in Tyne and Wear to mark World Oceans Day. Mr Prescott is a keen diver and has campaigned for cleaner seas. Photograph: PA

# Cook raises doubts on timetable for the euro

Colin Brown

Robin Cook yesterday opposed moves by the newly elected French government to ease the economic criteria for countries to join a "softer" single European currency.

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that he believed the election victory for the socialists under Lionel Jospin and the aborted attempt by the Germans to revalue their gold reserves had raised doubts about the single currency starting on time in 1999.

Mr Cook is one of the leading sceptics in the Cabinet about the single currency, but there appears to be no difference of view within the Government "big four" - Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, John Prescott and Mr Cook.

In spite of the warmth of the meeting between Mr Blair and Mr Jospin in Malmö last Friday, Britain is wary about the French plans for softening the entry criteria for the single currency.

Asked if he welcomed the French idea of a "softer euro", Mr Cook said: "No, not if that meant you were making it easier for people who had fudged the criteria to get in under the line."

He added: "The debate at the moment seems to be in danger of polarising between a softer Euro, which would not be workable, and a harder Euro which would not be popular."

"If the European single currency is to proceed on time it is very important that it proceeds on time both with credible criteria which will make sure it is a credible strong currency and secondly with popular backing."

Mr Cook was also dismissive of some of the five points by Mr Jospin at the social democrats' gathering in Malmö.

Mr Jospin said Italy and Spain should be included in the first wave. But Mr Cook said: "I don't think you should name countries who ought to begin, as of right. I think countries

should be entitled to join a single currency if they meet the criteria... That is the issue to be addressed, not the name of the country."

He said there was now broad agreement in Europe that the approach to a single currency had to be underpinned by an economic strategy for growth and jobs.

That was why Mr Brown, the Chancellor, would be putting his proposals today for jobs to the meeting of European finance ministers.

It was "unlikely" Britain would join the first wave in 1999, said Mr Cook, but he stressed that jobs would be the key

### Talking to Tony

Tony Blair's first week in office has been a busy one. He has met with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor, and the Foreign Secretary. He has also met with the Prime Minister of France, Lionel Jospin, and the Prime Minister of Germany, Helmut Kohl. He has also met with the Prime Minister of Italy, Romano Prodi, and the Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez. He has also met with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Wim Kok, and the Prime Minister of Belgium, Guy Verhofstadt. He has also met with the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Jacques Santer, and the Prime Minister of Ireland, John Bruton. He has also met with the Prime Minister of Greece, Kostas Karamanlis, and the Prime Minister of Portugal, Antonio Guterres. He has also met with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair.

yardstick for Britain's decision on whether to enter the currency, if and when it started. "We will carry out a hard-headed assessment towards the end of this year as to whether joining would be in the economic interests of Britain; would it increase or risk jobs." "At the moment, we think it unlikely that that assessment would put us to joining," he said on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost*.

# MoD to review possibility of ban on foxhunting

Colin Brown

Foxhunting could be banned on more than 500,000 acres of Ministry of Defence land following a review announced yesterday by ministers.

One of the first victims of a ban on foxhunting on MoD land could be the Royal Artillery's own foxhunting pack at the Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain.

The MoD review, coupled with a review of foxhunting on Forestry Commission land, would hit more than 60 foxhunting packs, including one in the New Forest that hunts deer, and foxhunting packs in the Quantocks.

The move could be pre-empted this week by Michael Foster, a new Labour MP who is under pressure to introduce a private members' Bill banning hunting with hounds for all wild animals.

Mr Foster, who is anti-foxhunting, came top in the ballot of MPs for the right to introduce legislation, and will announce his decision this week after consulting his constituents in Worcester. A spokesman for the



Hunted: Ban could give foxes a quieter life on MoD land

League Against Cruel Sports said: "It is looking very good. 'Some hunts will be dropped; others will be seriously inconvenienced. But what we really need is legislation to protect wildlife from unnecessary suffering, by banning all hunts whether for deer, foxes, hares or mink. They would then have to go hunting by putting down a false trail, which would preserve the social side of their activity.'"

Field sports lobbyists said that up to a dozen hunts would be forced to close. But they insisted that the practical difficulties of imposing a ban would make it an unattractive proposal for both the MoD and the Commission.

Landowners have written to the MoD threatening to withdraw permission for exercises to encroach on their land, and could put up to a quarter of a million acres presently used for training out of bounds to the

military in the case of a ban, said Janet George, of the British Field Sports Society.

She said: "There is not much benefit and a hell of a lot of hassle for the Government in trying to get at hunting through the back door, which is what this is."

"They don't relish the prospect of pushing a total ban through Parliament, but they want to have something to offer the anti-hunting lobby."

An MoD spokeswoman said: "It is our intention to carry out a thorough review of the effectiveness of hunting with hounds to control fox numbers on MoD land." No timetable has yet been set for the review, which will consider alternative methods of controlling fox numbers, such as shooting, but it is expected to start soon, and be completed "within months, rather than years", she added.

The MoD owns about 600,000 acres, while the Forestry Commission controls 2.8 million. Among hunts which would probably be forced to close by a ban are the Borders Hunt, the New Forest Fox Hunt and the New Forest Buckhounds.

# MPs who take bribes face seven years in jail under new law

Lobbyists who offer "cash for questions" to politicians will be caught by new laws to be announced today by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to clean up Parliament after the scandals of Tory MPs alleged to be guilty of sleaze, writes Colin Brown.

MPs found guilty of taking bribes or illegal gifts would face seven years' imprisonment under the anti-sleaze Bill to be introduced by Mr Straw, overriding the failed system of self-regulation by the Palace of Westminster.

The anti-corruption legislation would cover those found guilty of offering bribes to MPs, in addition to the judiciary and local councillors, as part of the pledge by Tony Blair to raise standards in public life.

Robyn Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "It would cut both ways. It's not just the MPs - it's those who offer the bribes that would be caught by this proposal."

"It is a common sense step forward to improving the state of the law. People are going to be slightly surprised to discover that although there are clear laws against bribery, members of Parliament are not among the categories if you attempt to bribe them."

The legislation will not act retrospectively and therefore the MPs criticised by Sir Gordon Downey, who is investigating cash-for-questions allegations, will not be caught in the net.

Mr Cook said on BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost* there was an unsatisfactory position in which there was no

sanction by Parliament against Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP for Tatton, because he had lost his seat.

Mr Hamilton strongly denies the allegations and has complained that he has been prevented from clearing his name. However, Mr Cook said that in future, general elections would not stop former MPs facing charges. "If a criminal offence had taken place then the charge would be pursued within the usual timebar but not dropped because there had been an election."

The Nolan Committee, set up to investigate standards in public life, welcomed the Government initiative. The committee has backed Mr Straw's plan and is to recommend a new offence of misconduct in public

life when it publishes its report in a few weeks' time.

Because of pressure on parliamentary time, the legislation will not be introduced until late next year.

The Nolan Committee was set up by John Major's government to examine standards in public life following the cash-for-questions scandal. A spokesman for the committee said: "The Nolan Committee welcomes moves by the Government to take forward the work of the Law Commission and the Nolan Committee and the Home Office in tackling corruption."

The Bill will close a loophole in the law dating back to the 1689 Bill of Rights which gives MPs immunity from public prosecution.

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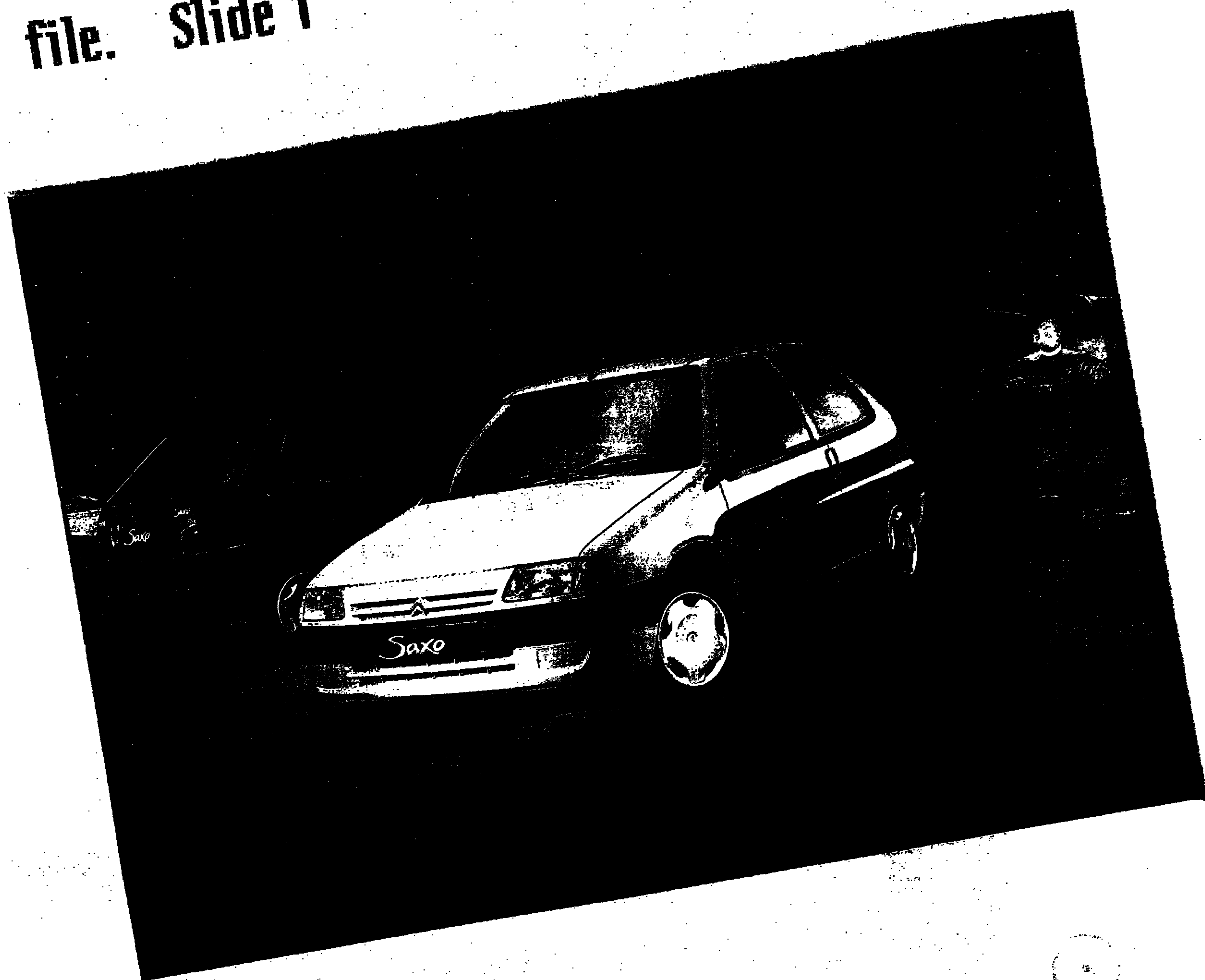


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# Phenomenon file. Slide 1



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## The tide is turned for Dam Buster bombs



On a roll: Army engineers and bomb disposal officers pushing the four-ton Dam Buster bomb out of the sea at Reculver in Kent

Photograph: Paul Hackett/Reuters

Army engineers yesterday successfully recovered the last of four prototypes of the bouncing bombs used in the Dam Busters raid.

The army team, including bomb disposal experts and Territorial Army soldiers, retrieved the four-ton bomb from the sea off the Kent coast where it was dropped 50 years ago.

The bomb was rolled on to the shore at Reculver, then attached by steel cables to a bulldozer before being winched further up the beach to be loaded on to a lorry. Attempts to haul the bomb in on Saturday night were defeated by the incoming tide.

Captain Alan Cunroy, Army liaison officer, said: "In the end we rolled it in by hand. Ten men at a time took it in turns to push the device and the Royal Engineers have beaten the tide. King Canute couldn't do it but we did."

The bomb is in extremely good condition. Some of the original paintwork is still visible and there is very little rust.

The bomb was the biggest of the four recovered and the furthest from the shore. Invented by Barnes Wallis, the bouncing bombs were used to destroy dams in Germany's industrial heartland, the Ruhr Valley, in 1943. The attack was celebrated in the 1954 film, *The Dam Busters*, starring Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd.

Reculver was chosen for testing the bombs because the twin towers of an old fort on the coastline were similar to the towers of the Ruhr dams which the pilots used to line themselves up on their bombing run.

The devices recovered also include a 1,800lb High Ball bomb, and two 1,200lb versions of the Upkeep bomb developed to target battleships. Heralded as an important part of military history, the bombs will be cleaned up before being put on display.

## Bruton deposed as Ahern takes reins of power

Alan Murdoch  
Dublin

Ireland's centre left Government last night conceded defeat to Bertie Ahern's Fianna Fail party and its Progressive Democrat allies, who will depend for a slender Dail majority on a handful of Independents.

The two-day counting of results left Mr Ahern with sufficient support to be elected Taoiseach when the Dail resumes on 26 June. He now faces two weeks of hard bargaining with Independents to guarantee their votes.

Last night, Fianna Fail (FF) had 76 seats, Fine Gael 53, Labour 17, Progressive Democrats 4, Democratic Left 4, Greens 2, Sinn Féin 1, and Independents 7. The final seat, in Limerick West, was expected to be won by Fine Gael.

Mr Ahern avoided the worst-case scenario of having to rely for support on Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, elected as Sinn Féin's first Dail TD (MP) since IRA hunger strikers won in 1981 and before that four abstentionist candidates in 1957.

Such a reliance would have poisoned his government's dealings with Unionists. It would also have been difficult for Mr Ahern's new-right partners, the Progressive Democrats, to tolerate. After dropping their Dail abstentionist policy in 1986, Sinn Féin's new TD for Cavan-Monaghan will take up his seat, unlike Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at Westminster.

Mr Ahern, 45, a former hospital accountant and union organiser, has led Fianna Fail since Albert Reynolds resigned in 1994. He said he may make contact this week with Sinn

Fein President Gerry Adams to press for an early end to IRA violence. But he reiterated his position that once in power he would not meet Sinn Féin until a ceasefire was in place.

The Fianna Fail leader said prospects for progress in Northern Ireland were "tremendous", adding "but when you go round the mulberry bush you come back to the position that it's very hard to get anywhere as long as there is violence".

"They [Sinn Féin] have stated in [recent] elections that their's is a peace strategy. I think they have to prove that now." If republicans "proved their

part" he said he would do "everything I humanly can" to move the process forward.

Outgoing ministers predicted a short life for the new coalition. Dependent in Dail votes on Independents in Donegal and Kerry South with strong republican views, this could create internal strains over Northern Ireland.

Labour leader Dick Spring, who said he would remain at the helm unless his party said otherwise, warned: "It seems hard to see a stable government emerging. There is going to be difficulty." He predicted Dail turbulence over abortion legislation, Northern Ireland, the payments to politicians inquiry and media ownership.

Ingenious vote control, exploiting the proportional representation system to the full, enabled Fianna Fail to win many more seats than in 1992 on just 39 per cent of first-preference votes, in what was still its second-worst overall vote since 1932.

Though losing power, Mr Bruton emerged with enhanced stature after articulating a more visionary message in the campaign. Yesterday, he claimed there had been a "mind yourself" vote for the FF-PD coalition. Urging social cohesion, he warned that urban decay would not be remedied by tax-cutting "short-termism" under Fianna Fail and the PDs. "Irish people are not basically interested in divisive 'grab-all' politics."

Attacked widely for their allegedly Thatcherite views, the Progressive Democrats fared badly, losing more than half their TDs. Some observers believe Mr Ahern might have won a majority but for his pact with the PDs.

### Loyalists invade Catholic church

The dangerous state of community relations in Northern Ireland was illustrated yet again at the weekend when a loyalist mob stormed a Catholic church and attempted to set fire to it, writes David McKerr.

Some 27 RUC officers were injured in disturbances which centred around a loyalist band parade in Ballymena, Co Antrim. Police fired plastic bullets to disperse crowds and made several arrests.

Nearby, vandals attacked the grave of Gregory Taylor, the RUC officer who was last weekend kicked to death by loyalists in a neighbouring town. Wreaths were scattered around the cemetery and gloating graffiti has appeared.

The incidents indicate that sectarian temperatures are high as a tense marching season approaches.

## Police powerless over paedophile's threat

Clare Garner

Parents in Merseyside were stunned at the revelation yesterday that a convicted paedophile who has threatened to reoffend could be returned to their community next week.

The man has told police he is likely to commit a further offence but they cannot act until he does so. The case has renewed calls for the introduction of Megan's Law, in Britain of Megan's Law, adopted by 42 states in America, which compels authorities to notify parents if a paedophile moves into their locality.

Parents shopping in Hoyton, the Liverpool district where the man lived in a hostel prior to his recent detention, demanded that his identity be

made public. Karen Cleary, who has a three-year-old son, said: "We should be able to see a picture of him and be told where he lives. There are lots of children living around here and they do play out and hang around outside all the time. It is very frightening for parents."

In 1990 the paedophile was sentenced to nine years jail at Manchester Crown Court for the rape and sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl. He was released after six years but arrested last month for breach of the peace. He is being detained under the Mental Health Act for 28 days and is due to be released in eight days time.

Some police fiercely oppose the introduction of a Megan's Law, so-named after Megan

Kanka, a seven-year-old raped and murdered by a convicted paedophile who moved into the New Jersey street where she lived. They fear that identified paedophiles – or those mistaken for them – would be the target of vigilantes. Paedophiles, they say, would be driven underground where police and social workers would be unable to monitor their activities.

Fr Michael Lee, of St Columba Catholic Church, Hoyton, said he would be praying for the protection of all children. "If these people can be helped, then we should try to stop them doing these awful things. But I also believe people in this community need to be warned about any danger to them and their children," he said.



international

# Headhunting returns to the

The Dayaks came into the square. One of them was carrying a head, another had what looked like a piece of wet tongue. He said 'this is a heart', raised it to his mouth and then started to eat it.

The jungle makes quick work of flesh, and it is four months since these were human beings. But human they still recognisably are – beneath the encroaching undergrowth, and the artificial fibres of the cheap clothes, are arms, legs and vertebrae.

Here, jutting out of a pair of stained shorts, is a pelvis, and above it, a nest of curved ribs. There are five skeletons and their clothes show that all were women. Only one thing is missing: none of the skeletons have skulls. And, according to the rubber tappers who brought us here, there was something else strange about these bodies, before the jungle gnawed their flesh away. Apart from the absence of heads, each had deep wounds through which their hearts had been removed.

A few minutes of hacking through the jungle leads to a pair of skulls beneath a tree, along with traces of baby clothes. Five minutes further on, just off the road leading into the small town of Salatiga, is the settlement where these people might once have lived. The small tin-roofed mosque is untouched, but around it is a scene of devastation: house after house – simple wood and plaster bungalows, once the homes of migrant farmers, rubber tappers and gold prospectors – has been reduced to charred beams, molten glass and corrugated iron.

The destruction is eerily selective. Further down the road one house stands untouched amid a neighbourhood of ruins. In the centre of Salatiga itself, the town goes peacefully about its business. Customers shelter from the sun at a little restaurant, and a fruit truck is loaded with ripe durians. On the other side of the road, facing this picturesque activity, is a burned black expanse, where some 30 houses must once have stood. Such incongruous scenes are repeated all along this road which links Pontianak, the capital of Indonesia's West Kalimantan province, with the inner reaches of Borneo, one of the world's biggest and most impenetrable islands. Even now Salatiga, along with dozens of even more obscure settlements, looks like the scene of a recent war. But four months ago, according to local people interviewed last week by *The Independent*, the situation was even more shocking.

Headless, mutilated bodies of men, women and even children lay alongside the road. Skeletons sprawled in the ruins of the smoking houses. Gangs of local Dayak tribesmen, wearing T-shirts and war paint, carrying spears and swords as well as rifles, patrolled the jungle, hunting down the fugitive remnants of the Madurese settlers whose houses they had torched. Those whom they did catch up with, like the wretched women now lying in the jungle, were shot or stabbed, and then decapitated. Then, according to witnesses, their hearts were pulled from their warm bodies and eaten.

Such accounts, along with these photographs obtained by *The Independent* from a local amateur photographer, represent the first firm evidence of what until now has been little more than shocking rumour: an ethnic war, of scarcely imaginable savagery, in Indonesia, one of Asia's most powerful economies and the fourth largest nation in the world.

It has claimed hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives, and made thousands more homeless. For the government in Jakarta, which virtually denies its existence, it is a nightmare in a country of 200 million people and 300 ethnic groups, founded on the motto, "Unity in Diversity".

W eirdest of all, it demonstrates the extraordinary survival of tribal traditions which were assumed to have died out generations ago. Apart from its human cost, this is a war terrifying in its savagism, fought according to ancient and merciless traditions of head hunting, cannibalism and witchcraft, just a couple of hours' drive from a modern city of banks, airlines and hotels.

The warring parties are two of Indonesia's diverse ethnic groups: the Dayaks and the Madurese. The Dayaks are the original inhabitants of Borneo, infamous during the 19th century as the archetypal Victorian "savages". For thousands of years, before the arrival of Dutch and British colonists, they dominated Borneo, a scattered collection of tribes who lived in communal longhouses,

practised a form of animism, and survived by hunting, and by slash and burn agriculture.

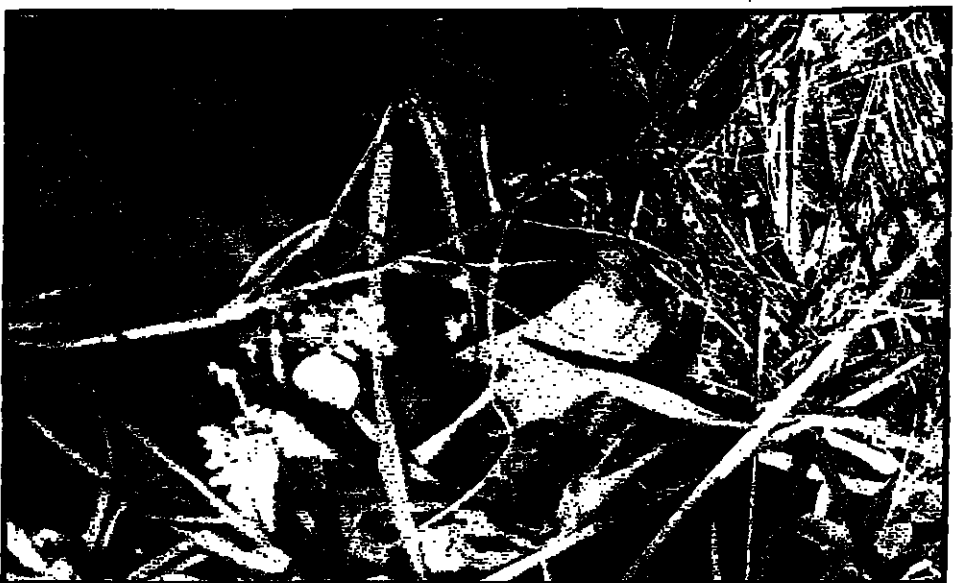
More sensational, to the Victorian mind, was the habit among Dayak men of driving metal pins through their penises. Dayak warriors increased their prestige, and brought good luck to their villages, by collecting the heads of rival tribes in ritualised, set-piece raids. The victim's heart, brains, and blood were believed to bestow potency on those who consumed them, and the heads were preserved and worshipped.

The Dayaks' bloodier traditions were outlawed by the

have been claimed or forcibly purchased for industrial forestry, rubber and mining projects.

"Day by day, the Dayaks are being driven away," says Stephanus Djueng, director of the Institute of Dayakology Research and Development in Pontianak. "It's more than 50 years since Indonesia became independent but the education of Dayaks is very much less than the average because they can't earn decent incomes. They don't have the chance to study, so they can't enter official positions. They have no opportunities, and they're putting things right in the only way they know how."

burnings and for violent incidents during last month's election campaign. Madurese transmigrants are accused of occupying Dayak land, often as part of official government resettlement programmes, but the differences run deeper than that. The Madurese are proud bearers of curved sickles; Dayak tradition abhors the public flaunting of blades. The Dayaks hunt and rear pigs; the Madurese are strict Muslims. Tension and occasional violence between the two are as old as the first Madurese arrivals in Kalimantan, early this century, but never on the scale of the past few months.



Rotting clothes lie in the jungle as a reminder of slaughtered Madurese villagers

Christian colonists and, since the defeat of the Japanese in 1945, they have been full citizens of the Republic of Indonesia. Today Dayaks keep their penis pins hidden beneath jeans and T-shirts. Most longhouses have been replaced by simple homes of wood and plaster. Every community has at least one church, but despite their superficial modernisation, belief in spirits remains widespread, and the key moments in the rice cycle are still marked by shamanistic ceremonies.

Above all, Dayaks remain marginalised, with low standards of health and education, and little representation in politics, local government or business. Their traditional lands

Overwhelmingly, West Kalimantan is owned, administered, and profited from by migrants from other parts of south-east Asia, principally Malays, Chinese, Javanese, and a minority of Madurese.

Madura is a dry, barren island off the east coast of Java, whose people have a national reputation for coarseness, armed violence and an uncompromising form of Islam. Like the Dayaks, they are poor, and the government has dealt with this by transplanting them to the more fertile islands of the outer archipelago where they inevitably become the neighbours that nobody wants. Justly or unjustly, Madurese have been blamed for numerous church

It began on 30 December when a couple of young Dayaks were stabbed, apparently by Madurese, at a concert in the town of Sanggau, close to the border with Malaysian Sarawak. News of the attack spread and over the next four days some 5,000 Dayaks attacked and burned Madurese homes. At least 6,000 people fled to the coastal town of Singkawang, but the numbers of dead are unknown.

Andreas, a Catholic priest (like all witnesses of killings, his name has been changed to protect his identity), was in the town of Semelantan on New Year's Day. "The Dayaks started coming to the market square, about 1,000 of them," he says.

"They were wailing like Indians in a Western, 'Who-woo-woo-woo'. One of them was carrying a head, and another guy came up to me holding something that looked like a piece of wet tongue. He said, 'This is a heart', and raised it to his mouth and started eating it in front of my face."

Officials from Pontianak and leaders of the two communities hastily beat out a peace agreement, but on 29 January violence blew up again, when a Dayak school was burned down in a predominantly Madurese area of Pontianak. Two Dayak girls were stabbed and cars travelling through towns north of Pontianak were stopped by Madurese and a handful of Dayak motorists were lynched.

Dayak outrage expressed itself in ritual form, as the "Red Bowl" was passed round from village to village. "The Red Bowl is a symbol of communication, used to call people to war in a time of emergency," says Fr Yereinis, a Dutch priest who has lived in the village of Menjalin for 16 years.

The leaders came up with three conditions. Not to burn down any mosques; not to burn any state-owned buildings; and no looting. They only killed Madurese, not Javanese or Malays. They wanted to emphasise that their grievance was with the people, not with Islam or the government, and that they were not criminals. Apart from that they killed without exception – from chickens to old people to babies. No exceptions at all.

Crowds of Dayaks gathered spontaneously with spears, home-made guns, and a traditional machete called a *mandau*. Tribal generals, called *panglima*, addressed the war parties who were observed by onlookers to enter a kind of trance. According to traditional belief, this is explained by the presence in their bodies of chaotic war spirits called *teru*. The only thing which will appease the *teru* is human blood and heads.

Sabdi, a Dayak teacher from Salatiga, described the spectacle when the war party arrived on the morning of 1 February. "I was watching from my bedroom when about 1,000 Dayaks arrived in town. A lot of the

Madurese had already run away, but about 50 stayed behind to defend their houses. Three of them got shot – Sinem, Marsuli, and another man. Dayaks cut their heads off with swords. Then they cut open their backs and pulled out the hearts, and they ate the hearts and drank the blood."

For four days, Dayaks hunted down Madurese hiding in the jungle. One man, a settler from Java who was spared by the Dayaks, believes that over the course of five days he saw many as 60 heads and dozens of decapitated bodies.

Stephanus Djueng's message leads him to believe that 300 Madurese died in Salatiga alone, and perhaps 1,700, including 100 Dayaks, lost lives in the conflict. Fr Yereinis estimates 4,000 dead. The government acknowledges more than 300.

Even according to the official figures, some 2,500 houses were destroyed before February, when the local military, reinforced by elite units from other parts of Indonesia, finally brought the situation under control. Road blocks and landmines were deployed to prevent Dayaks reaching the large Madurese community in Pontianak. Journalists who tried to enter the affected area were arrested and sent back. The border with Malaysia was closed (to prevent Dayaks from Sarawak coming to the assistance of their Indonesian brethren), and a news blackout was imposed on hospitals and police stations.

The official line, explained by Captain SW Subadi of the West Kalimantan police, is that the riots were individual squabbles which got out of hand, with the encouragement of mysterious "third parties". "It is finished," he said last week. "It was based on misunderstanding between the two communities, and it's absolutely finished."

Others are not so sure. Last Tuesday evening on the outskirts of Salatiga, two Dayak men approached carrying torches, rifles, and swords. They laughed when they saw our faces. "We thought you were Madurese," they said. What if we had been Madurese, we asked. "We would have killed you, of course. All the Madurese must leave Kalimantan. Not one of them may stay."

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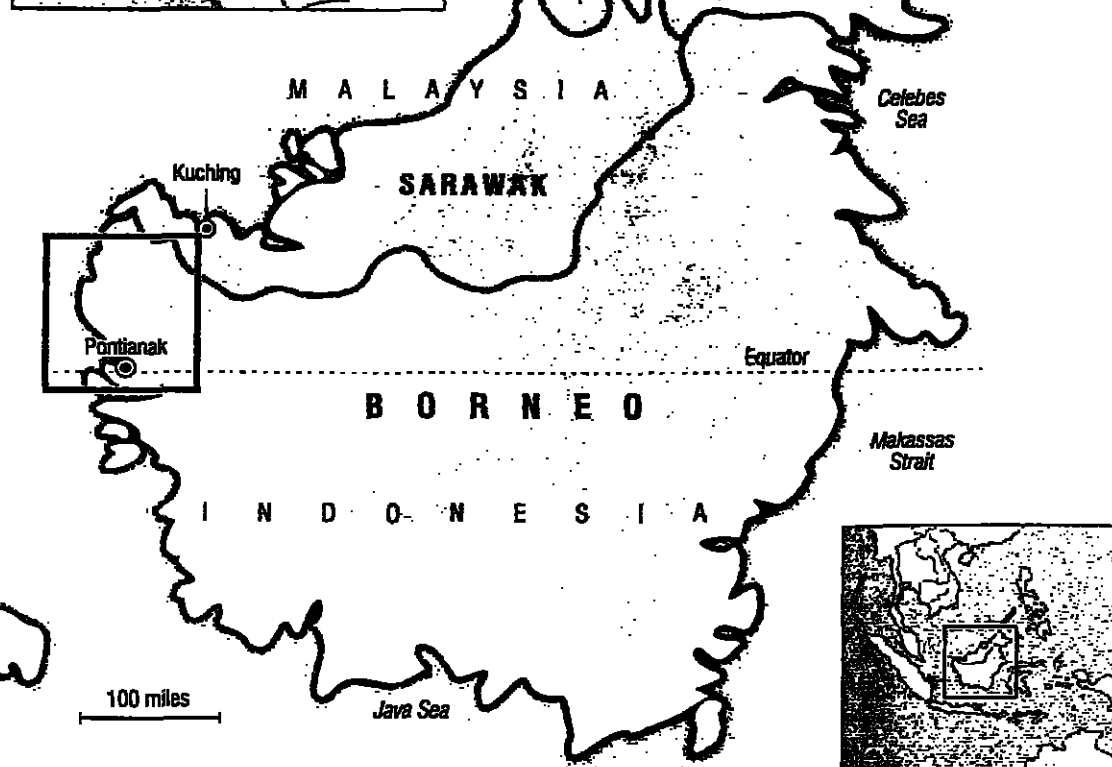
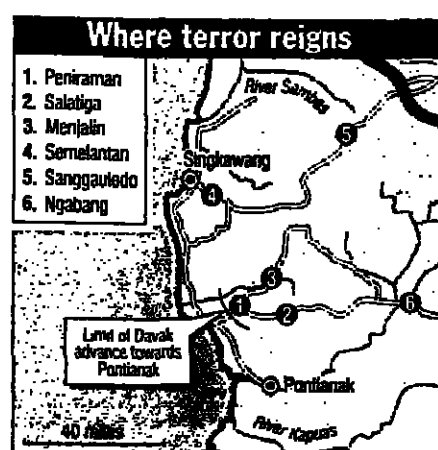
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هنا من الأمل



# jungles of Borneo



A human skeleton (main picture) found in a burnt-out house used as a hiding place by Madurese during attacks by Dayaks, seen gathering (top) in Senakin village for war, many coming from the Bornean interior, carrying wooden spears, rifles, mandau (swords) and arrows. Dayak members of the regional parliament attempted to pacify the crowd, and urged them to return to their villages, but some stayed to look for Madurese. The charred remains of Madurese homes (above) on the road between Salatiga and Mandor, burnt in the attacks

Photographs: Richard Lloyd Parry



## Catalogue of rising bloodshed

1981: Publication of *The Head-Hunters of Borneo* by the explorer, Carl Bock.

30 December 1996: Two Dayaks stabbed during an argument with Madurese youths in Sanggau. Four days of violence follow, during which 5,000 Dayaks burn and kill in Madurese settlements close to the Malaysian border. 6,000 Madurese refugees arrive in the city of Sinkawang.

1 January 1997: Dayaks in Semelantan laund heads of dead Madurese and devour their hearts.

8 January 1997: Dayak and Madurese leaders make a peace agreement.

29 January 1997: A Dayak school in Pontianak, a Madurese suburb of Pontianak, is set on fire. Two Dayak girls are stabbed in their beds.

30-31 January: At least three Dayaks are lynched at Madurese checkpoints in Peniraman, 32km north of Pontianak. The Red Bowl of war, a ritual symbol of war, is passed among the Dayaks.

1 February: Madurese burn Dayak houses in Salatiga. Dayaks across the region burn Madurese houses and kill their inhabitants.

1-4 February: Dayak war parties hunt down and kill hundreds of Dayaks in the jungle areas around Salatiga, Mandor, Pahauman and Ngabang, adjoining the road to Pontianak.

3 February: Unconfirmed reports that 17 Dayaks were killed trying to break through an army roadblock at Sungai Pinyuh.

5 February: Military reinforcements arrive. Malaysia closes its land border with West Kalimantan. Military roadblocks set up and curfew imposed on Pontianak.

18 February: Dayak officials announce a "peace agreement".

22 February: Dayaks burn 60 Madurese houses in Kapak Mandor, 60km north of Pontianak.

4 April: West Kalimantan governor Aspar Aswin asserts in the Jakarta Post that "there are no problems between the Dayaks and Madurese".

29 May: Indonesia holds a general election.

3 June: Dayaks tell *The Independent* they will not rest until every Madurese is either dead or gone from Kalimantan.

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## A taste for the flesh of humans

Ian Burrell

Despite lasting images of missionaries being cooked and eaten alive in Africa, the practice of eating the flesh of other humans as a staple diet no longer exists even among tribal societies.

Forms of ritual cannibalism still survive in the Amazon, where Mundurucu headhunters are known to eat the flesh of outsiders, and in the Irian delta in Indonesian New Guinea (Irian Jaya) where the Asmat eat dead members of their own tribe as a rite of passage.

Reports of head-hunting and cannibalism of one tribe by another are extremely rare and difficult to substantiate.

Last year, Liberians caught up in fighting in the West African nation's civil war reported that teenage members of the rebel United Liberation Movement had cut out and eaten the hearts of their enemies after cooking them.

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution in 1968 people were reported to have been eaten in the town of Wuxian, south-west China, during clashes between rival factions of the Red Guard.

Other outbreaks of cannibalism have been prompted by circumstance, such as prolonged famine. The former Soviet Union has a shameful record in this regard, with the first cases being recorded in the Volga region during the famine of 1921.

When millions died of starvation in Ukraine during the 1930s some resorted to ambushing strangers and children for food.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union the problem has resurfaced with more than 10 Russians being charged with killing and eating their victims. They included prisoners who ate fellow convicts and a Siberian man who used the flesh of a friend to make ravioli.

Other instances of cannibalism have been linked to acts of depravity, usually due to insanity. The term "cannibal" is derived from the Carib people who were native to the islands of the Caribbean, and were said by European explorers to have a preference for Frenchmen and a distaste for Spaniards.

William Arens, an American professor of anthropology, dismisses the suggestion that whole societies were ever cannibalistic as racist myth.

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## international

# Fury as Israel labels US Jews second class

Patrick Cockburn  
Jerusalem

A law labelling most American Jews as inadequately Jewish is throwing strain on relations between Israel and the powerful American Jewish community.

The point at issue is the right to convert someone to Judaism. A law now passing through the Israeli Knesset, which gives Orthodox rabbis a monopoly over conversion in Israel itself, has provoked a furious reaction from America's three million Jews who go to a synagogue but are not Orthodox.

"American Jews understand that the State of Israel is casting doubt upon their rabbis and, accordingly, upon the Jewish communities those rabbis serve," says Joseph Alpher, director of the Israel/Middle East office of the American Jewish Community. He says that already American Jews, who go to Reform or Conservative rather than Orthodox synagogues, are beginning to refuse to contribute to Israel, where the majority of Jews are Orthodox.

Ironically, the present Bill going through the Knesset with the support of the government is the result of a compromise which was supposed to conciliate American Jews. It is, in effect, a watered-down version of a Bill under which the 200,000 or more Jews converted by a Re-

form or Conservative rabbi in the US would no longer have been recognised as Jews in Israel. "The way Reform rabbis convert in the US is a joke," a senior member of the religious party Shas was quoted as saying. "You buy a certificate for \$20 [£12.50]."

The new law will only derecognise Reform or Conservative conversions carried out in Israel itself. Conversions in the US, Britain and the rest of the world will still be recognised. Even Orthodox rabbis see that derecognition of the right to convert by most American rabbis would lead to anger in the US, but American Jews still consider the legislation a slap in the face.

The conflict is also having important political consequences. Mr Alpher argues that the US Congress has already set a precedent by cutting aid to Israel. Despite the power of the Jewish political lobby, he says American politicians notice when the US Jewish Community is less active in its support for Israel.

He says: "It becomes easier for the US administration to put pressure on Israel."

In practice there is little sign of this. The American Jewish community has always been one of the major pillars of the Democratic party. But it has exercised unprecedented influence in President Clinton's

administrations. "In the National Security Council seven out of 11 top staffers are Jews," says the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*.

But Israel has few allies apart from the US. In the UN vote condemning the construction of the Jewish settlement at Har Homa in Jerusalem, the only country joining Israel and the US voting against the condemnation was Micronesia.

Leaders of the US Reform and Conservative movements will arrive in Israel this week to try to work out a compromise. But it will be difficult to dilute the message to American Jews, which one fundraiser described as being: "You are not as good a Jew as the Orthodox."



At least 39 people died as fire swept through an 11th-century Hindu temple at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, southern India, at the weekend, when thousands of pilgrims had gathered for a religious festival. The blaze is believed to have started from a ceremonial fire. Photograph: AFP

## They work better together.



## Besieged by a fortress mentality

### MOSCOW DAYS

I can see it quite clearly amid the trees below the window of my office. Just outside the fence that rings our apartment block, there is a burnt-out black Mercedes. Local gossip has it that the vehicle was destroyed by a Molotov cocktail hurled through the windscreen by a vengeful mafia man.

To the knot of Russian men who have gathered to inspect the wreckage, its sooty hulk is a familiar reminder of the perils of doing business with the wrong people. But to outsiders like me it also suggests that it is a good thing that we have a fence. Though most are delightful, not all of the neighbours should be invited in for afternoon tea.

Like many expatriates in Moscow, I live in a peculiarly protected environment. The entrances to our monolithic complex, built by the Soviet authorities to coop up foreign diplomats and journalists, are blocked by barriers overlooked by guard posts. Security men wander rather aimlessly around the pavements along the foot of the building. The doors can only be opened by a code: they stand next to a small glass booth, usually occupied by a middle-aged woman who watches visitors come and go.

Excessive though this snooping often seems, there is some justification. Over the years, there have been muggings and robberies.

Such is the general mood of unease that several neighbours have taken to employing their own muscle. For a while, every time I walked up the stairs to the office, an oaf would dart out from an adjoining corridor, where he was guarding a businessman's flat, and give me a hostile glare – presumably to deter me from contemplating a bombing mission. Happily, he's gone; but there are bound to be others.

Concern about safety is hardly surprising in a city in which bankers and other businessmen are assassinated with such regularity that their deaths are barely commented upon. A thriving criminal class has filled the vacuum created by the end of the Soviet empire and bungled economic reforms. Not to take sensible precautions would be daft. But in Moscow, a deeper trend is underway, the flowering of an obsession.

By today's standards, our apartment block is positively lax. Those with money – Western executives and newly-enriched Russians – have a widening choice of fortresses in which they can seal themselves off.

And more and more are choosing to do so.

It can cost \$8,000 (£4,900) a month to live in Park Place, a US-managed complex in south Moscow, but there are plenty of people willing to shell out for an apartment in this privately-run Kremlin, in which the passageways are monitored by cameras and security men with earpieces roam the building.

There is no compelling need to go beyond its thick concrete walls, unless it is to work. It has restaurants, cocktail bar, tennis court, nursery school, gym, courier service, shops, bank, travel agent's, and more besides. The owners of luxury cars need not worry about fire bombs or the corrosive effect of freezing winters, as there is a heated underground car park. According to a friend who lives there, one of the residents remained indoors for so long that her small child never saw Russian grass.

All this is, of course, repeating a depressing pattern that has divided society in the United States, South Africa and – increasingly – western Europe. Take, for example, my old stamping ground in Los Angeles. Desperate to attract advertising in a dimly regulated multi-channel world, the local television stations churn out bloody-thirsty, and often wildly exaggerated, stories about crime.

The motto among competing news executives is chilling, but accurate: "If it bleeds, it leads." Bombarded by this gore, the population has grown daily more terrified and distrustful of itself. Those with cash buy more guns and try to hide behind lock and key. Thus, the rise of the gated community – entire villages built behind high walls and electronic barriers.

In Russia, the same process is beginning without the catalyst of a hysterical ratings-crazed news media. If tabloid television ever arrives, it will have plenty of material with which to whip up an even greater froth of fear. During one recent weekend five women were stabbed in Moscow; 22 people died after drinking fake vodka in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk; and 10 Russian soldiers were gunned down after one of their colleagues flipped. You see, the country is at times wild and lawless. But it won't get any better if its elite over-reacts and withdraws from it entirely, cowering from reality in their own very expensive, hermetically-sealed hatches.

Phil Reeves

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# Fears over euro plans reach fever pitch

Katherine Butler  
Luxembourg

Uncertainty over the new French government's economic policies raised speculation about the future of plans for a single currency to fever pitch as European finance ministers gathered last night in Luxembourg for crucial talks.

Before their meeting ends tonight the 15 ministers will have to reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the launch of a strong euro on 1 January 1999 to dispel doubts cast by the Socialist victory in the French elections and by Germany's budgetary crisis. Any sign of cracks will be seized on by the markets as confirmation either that a delay is inevitable or that the euro will be launched on time as a weak currency. But even as they arrived in Luxembourg – officially for a dinner to discuss designs for the eight euro coins – there was still no clear statement from Paris on the

## EU waits on decision from France

Jospin government's intentions. All eyes will be on Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the new French Finance Minister who will be asked today to clarify whether he is serious about pre-election job creation promises which would clearly be in conflict with the expenditure-slashing criteria enshrined in the Maastricht treaty. He will also be grilled on France's commitment to the stability pact, which will ensure strict budgetary austerity in the euro zone after the launch.

Mr Jospin has floated signals that he wants to unstitch agreement on the rules of the pact, negotiated painstakingly in Dublin last December, to allow more emphasis on employment. The Socialist government also wants a commitment to a "stability council" of euro zone governments to act as a political counterweight to

the new European central bank, and to agree economic policy for the Union. Any unravelling of the stability pact rules at this stage could, however, sound the death knell for the credibility of the euro.

Diplomats pointed hopefully to the absence of any formal demand by the French for a reopening of stability pact negotiations but admitted that backsliding now could be fatal. "Meeting the Emu deficit targets by the end of this year is one thing but the stability pact is critical – it is what will give the whole thing credibility and cohesion... If you don't have that you can throw your hat at it," said one source.

Germany masterminded the stability pact as a system of semi-automatic fines to be inflicted on member states who fail to maintain the fiscal rectitude Bonn has always deemed imperative if the

euro is to offer the German public a credible alternative to the mark. It is due to be rubber stamped by the European Union heads of government meeting in Amsterdam in 10 days, so it would be a race against the clock to rewrite the rules at this stage.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister who designed the stability pact, will also have to set minds at rest today as to whether Bonn itself can meet the Emu entry conditions on time. He is meeting European colleagues for the first time since the debacle over his plans to revalue Germany's gold reserves and use the profits to plug a gaping hole in the budget deficit. Mr Waigel's humiliation at the hands of the Bundesbank which forced him to drop the plan has seriously damaged his credibility and robbed Germany of the moral high ground in the debate over which member states should be allowed to join monetary union in the first wave.



Waterwork: Fisherman taking part in a dragon boat race near Cheung Chau, a Hong Kong island, yesterday as part of the celebrations marking today's Chinese Dragon Boat Festival  
Photograph: Franki Chan/AP

## Italian peace force tortured Somalis

Andrew Gumbel  
Rome

During the Gulf War, the joke about the Italian contingent in Operation Desert Storm was that they were providing the ice-cream trucks. In Gabriele Salvatore's film *Mediamano*, the Italian troops invading Greece are portrayed as warm-hearted young fellows who want nothing more than to play football with the locals.

For 50 years, the post-war generation in Italy has liked to think of its armed forces as "bravi gente", nice guys who will stop at nothing to help old ladies and children in trouble but probably don't have the stomach for the brutal business of war. This weekend, that myth has been shattered by horrifying photographs published in two news magazines that tell a singularly nasty story about Italian paratroopers attached to the UN peace mission to Somalia in 1993.

Young Somalis are shown stripped naked, beaten and wired up with electrodes attached to their testicles. Somali prisoners are shown being hooded and tied up before having cigarette butts stubbed out on their naked flesh.

One former paratrooper who sold the most graphic photos to *Panorama* magazine, Michele Patruno, says such mistreatment of Somalis was, for a time, routine in his regiment, the Folgore, one of the most fa-

mous in Italy. Prisoners were denied all food and drink except hot peppers, beaten, burned and electrocuted. On patrols, the men from Folgore would vandalise families' water supply and destroy the house if they found so much as a single bullet inside.

What began as a paranoid fear of clan violence turned into "pure sadism", Mr Patruno said. Prisoners were even thrown against razor wire for the amusement of their captors. Mr Patruno said he had heard of about five or six deaths as a direct result of torture.

The revelations have acted like a bombshell in Italy, prompting a number of judicial and internal investigations and one call by a small government party to disband the Folgore regiment. The Folgore has a reputation for lingering pro-fascist tendencies, which in turn have caused concern about its present involvement in the Italian-led mission in Albania.

The Somalis have reacted energetically to the scandal, opening law suits on 43 cases of alleged human rights violations, including 11 murders and 19 instances of torture. Interviewed in Mogadishu by *Agence France Presse*, one garage owner called Ahmed Mo-ah Mohammed described being hooded, tortured and thumped with sandbags by the Italians. "They used me like an ashtray," he said, showing the burn marks still visible on his body.

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## significant shorts

### Turkish general admits war on Kurds continuing

General Cevik Bir, Turkey's second highest-ranking military official contradicted the Prime Minister yesterday and said a three-week-old offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq was continuing.

The contrasting statements reflected the deep and growing division between the armed forces and the government of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who is trying to put a greater Muslim stamp on Turkish society.

Up to 50,000 troops, backed by tanks and airpower, crossed the border on 18 May to wipe out rebel bases in northern Iraq. AP - Ankara

### Hell's Angel held over shooting

A Hell's Angel was arrested yesterday and charged in connection with the killing of a rival Bandidos biker gang member outside a popular northern Denmark restaurant.

Three other Bandidos were wounded, two of them seriously, but were said to be in stable condition. The arrested man, whose name was not released, was the owner of a car used in the shooting in Liseleje, a summer resort 27 miles north of Copenhagen. AP - Copenhagen

### Israel forces settlement issue

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met yesterday to try to revive stalled peace talks, but the session began only after Israel extracted a denial of reports it had agreed to a freeze on building Jewish settlements. The meeting between teams led by Palestinian Saeb Erekat and Israel's Dani Naveh was overshadowed by what had or had not been promised to bring it about. AP - Cairo

### US offers Kabila olive branch

The United States will offer Congo's new government military co-operation as an incentive to maintain human rights standards, US officials said yesterday. President Laurent Kabila, agreed this weekend to allow UN officials to investigate alleged refugee massacres. AP - Kinshasa





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## the leader page

## Now be tough on the causes of deprivation

Shh. Can you hear the slithering of the buck when we discuss the Causes of Bad Things? It hardly matters which of society's ills we are talking about – smoking, driving while talking on a mobile phone, violence, unemployment – there is a natural progression of blame. The first step is to condemn individuals' failings, but if that were all that were needed the previous government would have eradicated crime, not tripled it. It was one of the new Prime Minister's simplest insights to say that by looking to the causes of wickedness we do not excuse it. So we must then ask why people behave badly and try to change the way they behave – through education. If only we could teach children "the difference between right and wrong", or that drugs screw you up, or that crossing the road is hazardous, then all would be well. Jesuits have long applied the principle that if you can get to the child, you can shape the adult. But the more we pursue the causes of social ills, the clearer it is that we are on a treadmill running backwards. Secondary school is too late for sex and drugs education, so it has to be started at primary school. But primary school is too late for moral education. And much schooling effort is hindered or negated at home. Off bounces the buck: the root cause of crime and anti-social behaviour must be bad parenting.

Step forward the arch-villain of mod-

ern malaises, the Bad Parent – usually the father. Vandalism? Dad wasn't there to exert discipline. Unemployment? Dad didn't care about homework. Lone mothers? Deadbeat dads abandoned them.

At last, help is at hand. No, not a Labour government dedicated to the notion of the "strong family". We are talking about self-help (see page 3). A book, *How to Succeed as a Parent*, is about to be published. So all the guilty fellows lurking in the shadows need do is read and inwardly digest the handy hints and lists of dos and don'ts?

Unfortunately not. The most important advice from the book's author, Steve Chalke, is for fathers to be there. Time is the "greatest gift" a father can give to his child. But, 10 years after the breakdown of a relationship with the mother, half of all fathers have lost contact with their children. Mr Chalke does not actually attend to the real problem of parenting in broken and deprived families, but to the rather different one of the guilt of middle-class parents. Attitudes towards good parenting have gone through a revolution since the Fifties. Self-help manuals have transformed fathers' attitudes, especially since the publication of the Gospel According to Dr Spock (never mind that yesterday Dr Spock's sons revealed that the guru of touchy-feely parenthood was himself cold and distant). Nowadays it is considered compul-



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sory, for example, for fathers to be present at the birth of their children.

Mr Chalke's advice (don't say, "I wish you'd never been born") is misdirected at parents who worry that they do not spend enough time with their children. That angst is real, and the debate about "quality time" with one's children is a serious one, but it is a world away from the problems of children who are neglected or abused by their parents – some of whom say, and mean, that they wish their children had never been born.

A survey of teenagers finds that Paul Gascoigne, Grant Mitchell and Prince

Charles are "Britain's worst fathers". The blurring of distinctions between fact and fiction (Grant is a character in *EastEnders*, whereas Gazza and Chazza are notionally real people) is diverting, although the message is clear: they do not spend enough time with their children. One of Gazza's crimes was to have gone on a drinking spree while his wife gave birth to their son.

But the important difference is between children who have a loving relationship with their parents, but want to see more of them, and those who feel abandoned and want their

parents to love them. This is where the search for the causes of so many social problems ends, and it is no wonder that the interrelated problems of crime, poverty and educational underachievement seem insoluble. We do not hear so much from Tony Blair nowadays about the "causes of crime", because so many of the paths of causation are circular. But it was encouraging that Mr Blair made his first prime ministerial speech on social policy in a south London council estate last week, because although specifics were still missing it suggested that the Government understands how a number of factors interact and reinforce each other, creating a so-called "underclass" of moral and physical deprivation.

A government cannot legislate against bad parenting, or family breakdown, but provided it is not distracted by the punitive simplicities which dictated Conservative policy it can act to break some of the cycles of despair. The issue of child-care and nursery schooling has been caught up in the middle-class guilt trap, because some have argued that children need more time with their parents (who need to work shorter hours) rather than being shunted into the care of more strangers. These are irrelevant arguments when it comes to breaking the cycle of deprivation among lone-parent families on problem estates: these children need to

spend less time with their parents, and their parents (usually their mothers) need to spend less time with their children. Otherwise, lone mothers will continue to be dumped from the labour market for 16 years or more.

From 1979 we had a government which seemed to be applying sticking plaster to the symptoms of growing social problems. Now we have a Prime Minister dedicated to tackling the underlying causes. On this, rather than last week's frothy opinion-poll ratings, his place in history depends.

## What price rain on our parade?

The sun is shining, England is winning at football and performing with unaccustomed style on the cricket field. Tony Blair is in his heaven and all is right with the world. Euphoria all round. One nation at least (the one which invented these sports, for goodness sake) feels good about itself. The popular myth is that Harold Wilson won the 1966 election because the voters felt good about winning the World Cup, but of course he won the election before England won the cup. This just goes to show that Labour victories really are the cause of sporting prowess. But not in rugby. And was that a spot of rain?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Business must face a new ethical world

Sir: Your Business Comment (6 June) displays the 1980s "market forces" view of business which is unfortunately still prevalent in the City but hardly anywhere else.

We will not have an ethical foreign policy ("Mr Cook, we are in arms", 6 June) or ethical home policy while we still have such unethical corporate governance and leadership. The primary purpose of a business is to meet public needs, not to "create wealth" for directors or shareholders. Try telling a bank manager that you are starting up to create wealth – he will look askance and ask you how.

Over recent years businesses have realised the importance of meeting customers' needs, but many, especially in the City, are slow in waking up to the popular demand for wider social responsibility, which New Labour's roaring success symbolises.

It is no longer acceptable for a few people to feed their greed to the detriment of many others. That is why chain letters are illegal and that is what is wrong with privatised (monopoly) utilities. Even the US has better business ethics legislation than we have.

GORDON GLASS

Director, 2020 Vision Ltd

Bath

Sir: All praise to the Liverpool women campaigning to ban arms exports to Indonesia because of the use of these arms against the people of East Timor ("Mr Cook, we are in arms").

We should remember that Indonesia has been holding the Western end of New Guinea, so-called "Irian Jaya", since the Sixties. The only rationale for handing it over to Indonesia was that country's status as successor to the Dutch East Indies. The New Guinea people are quite unlike Indonesians.

Since then Indonesia has colonised the country, moving in thousands of Javanese settlers, and terrorised the people. A friend staying in a village in the south of "Irian Jaya" some years ago reports having seen a human hand floating by on the river. Her host was unsurprised, as such sights, he said, were a common result of Indonesian activities.

East Timor is enough reason for keeping arms out of their hands, but not the only reason.

PHILIP SCOTT

Royston, Hertfordshire

Sir: In the interest of public information isn't it time the BBC or Channel 4 commissioned a new fly-on-the-wall documentary series about the fat cats at Camelot and the former public utilities. Once we see how hard these people work and what rare skills and talents they possess we will understand why they award themselves bonuses which, for many of us, exceed the total income from our working lives.

MELVYN RUST

St Albans, Hertfordshire

## Consultants do inform patients

Sir: As a near contemporary of Dr Phil Hammond (article, 3 May), I suspect that his illustrations of the problems of informed consent for medical procedures are derived from memories of his time as a junior house surgeon. It used to be standard practice to delegate pre-operative counselling to the most



inexperienced member of the team, often with much bluffing.

Much has changed since then. Patient expectations are now much higher, sometimes unrealistically so. Publicity over medical mishaps is important in a free society, but often contributes extra worry to patients, even though the scale of media interest reflects how rarely such mishaps occur. Rapid technological advances now bring very complex procedures into routine clinical practice, placing a greater burden of explanation on medical staff.

There has been a move towards a consultant-based, rather than consultant-led service, and "informing" and "consenting" now rest rightly with senior staff. For elective surgery, signature on an NHS standard form of consent does not constitute informed consent, and is a simply a record of agreement to proceed. Each patient must be informed to their own level of satisfaction. This process should begin with the patient's GP and the pre-operative visit to the consultant's clinic. In my own hospital, the form is usually signed in a pre-admission clinic a week before the operation, which provides a further opportunity for patients to meet and question both the doctors and nurses who will be providing most of the patient's care.

As regards the availability of audit results, Dr Phil will be aware that surgeons were the first group of clinicians to voluntarily audit their practice, and it is now compulsory across hospital specialties. An advantage of the current NHS referral system is that even if surgeons do not find out "how their hernias do" – as we can no longer afford follow-up out-

patient appointments following simple procedures – GPs do, and rapidly develop a sense of who performs well or otherwise. Thus consultants do receive regular feedback – either directly, or through lower referral rates. Audit results are increasingly available in medical literature and on institutional Internet Web sites such as our own.

One thing has not changed since Dr Phil's last direct contact with the surgical world. Most NHS consultant surgeons across the nation are still allocated a measly 10 minutes for their new patient consultations. Hopefully this problem has already been earmarked for urgent reform.

MIKE LARVIN  
Consultant Surgeon and Hunterian Professor of Surgery  
Leeds Institute for Minimally Invasive Therapy  
Leeds General Infirmary

## The benefit families need

Sir: Frances Savin (letter, 6 June) is right in suggesting that the minimum wage cannot be expected to cover the cost of a family. In the 1972-73 select committee on tax-credit the argument for a system of comprehensive support for children which I put forward (together with Professor Kaldor and Professor Abel-Smith) was dismissed on the grounds that it had wide implications for the wage-structure of the country. In our

two-income family society this argument must be taken seriously if equal pay is to be a reality.

We should not however try to go back to a breadwinner/full-time mother society. We need to have a special Family Responsibility Benefit for families with a child under school age. Young children require considerable attention which makes it impossible for both parents to make a normal contribution to family income. Either one parent (usually the mother) is restricted in her ability to earn if she provides this, personally, or the couple have considerable expense in providing substitute care.

It is essential that the family should be free to choose how this care is provided. The present system of support produces a poverty trap and is administratively expensive. Only a special benefit can provide the necessary flexibility. The form of care will vary according to the age and needs of the child and the earning opportunities available to both parents.

MARY TYLER

London NW11

Sir: Earlier this year I presided at the marriage of Emma and Simon. Today they inform me that she is pregnant, and still living with her mother. They hope to live in the village in which her grandfather was the carpenter. The reason they cannot find their own home for their child to be born in is because the council houses have been sold off.

Twenty years ago Emma and Simon would have stood a fair chance to remain in the village of their ancestors. When will the new government initiate a policy of rural housing and housing trusts so that Emma and Simon can remain in their village? The land is here, what we want is the money. Please, Mr Blair, "there is no room in the inn" yet.

The Rev PAUL JENKINS

Singleton, West Sussex

## Tide running against salmon

Sir: Your special report on Britain's disappearing wildlife (6 June) fails to mention one of our most threatened species, the North Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*).

Already classified as endangered by the European Commission and on the ICS list, this magnificent creature is in rapid decline throughout these islands.

The Hampshire Avon counts in scores a salmon run once measured in thousands. The Stour in Dorset supports only a tiny remnant stock, while the Test and Itchen are host only to returning artificially reared stock. The authorities acknowledge that these populations have passed the point where they are able to sustain themselves without intervention.

Add to the many hazards that have caused this near demise, the threat of infection by a lethal parasite called *Gyrodactylus salaris* that has rampaged from the Baltic,

through Scandinavia into France, Germany and Spain, and some might think the cause hopeless.

Salmon lack cuddle appeal. They are wet and rarely visible. They are nevertheless magnificent creatures with a remarkable life cycle the loss of which, to our British waters, would be as tragic as the loss of the tiger to India.

BRIAN MARSHALL

Chairman, Wessex Salmon Association

Linton,

Cambridgeshire

## Irish famine and disease

Sir: Professor Byron's views (letter, 7 June) on mortality in the Irish famine of the 1840s are completely wrong.

There is no greater proximate factor in susceptibility to infectious disease than nutritional status. Thus, in relapsing fever, his example, mortality increases by 12-fold, *ceteris paribus*, in a situation of famine (*The Cambridge World History of Human Disease*, ed K Kiple, Cambridge University Press, 1993).

Byron avers that action by health workers during the famine was futile because the disease vector had not been discovered. I draw his attention to the Austrian *condominites* of the 18th century, which prevented the incursion of the third plague cycle into Europe. Closer to home, look no further than the famous Broad Street pump in London, which John Snow had removed in 1855 to halt a cholera epidemic – 30 years before the cholera bacillus was identified. Dr NANU GREWAL

Oriel College, Oxford

## The secret of Houdini Harold

Sir: Thank you for the parallels between Tony Blair and Harold Wilson ("The cautionary tale of Labour's last moderniser", 4 June). There are others. If Harold Wilson boxed himself in with an overvalued exchange rate, Tony Blair has boxed himself in by yielding up both of government's main levers on the economy: interest rates to the Bank of England; and taxation to his promises to our much more materialistic electorate.

Houdini Harold escaped and, at the end of six years, the trade deficit of £376m had been turned into a surplus of £871m, the manufacturing investment needed to sustain it had increased by 44 per cent to a level only a little less than it is now and unemployment was only a shade over half a million – and all that without open access to the EC.

In those days we were much clearer about the object of the exercise, which was to shift of resources into industrial investment, in order to give us the trade surplus on which we depended (and still do) for domestic expansion and full employment. Without that clarity of practical purpose I do not see how Tony can do the same trick.

Sir FRED CATHERWOOD

Bulsham,

Cambridgeshire

## Mandarins paid in gongs

Sir: My confidence in your integrity has been shaken by the bland statement in your leading article of 5 June that "Whitehall staff are reasonably paid" and consequently should not expect to be in a group which receives honours for its top few chiefs as a sort of compensation for poor remuneration.

Since 1979, when public service became unfashionable, the Civil Service has been the subject of severe pay restraint and staff cutbacks.

I have four sons, all born between 1955 and 1965. Three are in the private sector (railways, building and advertising). The fourth, who is academically the brightest (first-class degree from Oxford), is a senior civil servant in Whitehall. My private sector boys are paid two to four times as much as the civil servant and in no way would they pretend that this was a justifiable disparity.

By all means let us do away with automatic honours, but in the case of the Civil Service please do not justify this on the grounds that the staff are reasonably paid.

PAUL BARRACLOUGH

Scotfold,

East Sussex

## German worm

Sir: Tony Shelbourne (Letters, 3 June) offers "earworm" as the most just for a tune that lodges in the brain, but does not know who first coined it.

Nor do I, but that person presumably spoke German well enough to know the word "Ohrwurm" and English not well enough to know that its proper translation is "earwig". Collins German Dictionary gives "Der Schlager ist ein richtiger Ohrwurm" as "That's a really catchy record".

LES TELFORD

Flitwick,

Bedfordshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

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The campaign for a new-look stock market is gathering strength. Cisco, the lobby group which represents companies outside the Footsie and the FTSE 250 indexes, may not be particularly powerful or well known but it can claim to have nudged the Stock Exchange into creating AIM, by general consent an outstanding success.

The idea is a three-tier market. Companies in Focusie and the FTSE 250 index should be grouped together in a sort of Premiership; the rest of the fully listed herd should become what would amount to a Nationwide League and, to maintain the football analogy, AIM and Seat shares would create a Vauxhall Conference—or, in Cisco phrasenology, an enterprise market.

market terms the requirements of, say, Glaxo Wellcome, differ dramatically from AIM-listed Stanford Rook, even if they are both drug companies.

Of course, the needs of institutional investors and private investors are also vastly different and the same argument can and should be made for introducing systems to accommodate their respective needs.

Whether a two-tier market for big and small investors will ever emerge is far from clear, but the CSCO initiative for market segmentation may make headway. After all, the Exchange came out in favour of the idea in 1992 and despite five years' inertia remains committed to the multi-market formula.

John Kemp-Weich, the Cazencove man who is Exchange chairman, drew attention to the need to "have a segmented market-place, providing distinct markets for different types of securities and

"One size", said Mr Kemp-Welch, "does not fit all," and Katie Morris, Cisco's chief executive, has raised the possibility of companies de-

Aspiringly domestic, the company only thought of them in terms of a home-grown quote are long gone. Paris and Frankfurt are still small and insignificant share markets, but they are making strenuous efforts to increase their appeal. And Nasdaq and Easdaq have already enjoyed some success in attracting companies which would normally settle for London.

A variety of arguments for segmentation, including differing tax needs, can be produced. But it is internationalisation which should bring things to a head. History shows that regulations get more and more elaborate. As Cisco says: "In



**STOCK**  
**DE**

international market, the Exchange may need to increase regulation – quarterly reporting, international accounting standards – and respond to the

## MARKET WEEK

### REK PAIN

**market reporter of the year**

heavy influence of US investment houses in areas such as corporate governance. To focus on defending the market in leading stock without paying due regard and attention to the needs of smaller, developing companies is myopic."

It adds: "Smaller companies are important to the economy, making a significant contribution to economic growth and wealth creation. A vibrant market requires a supply of companies willing to submit themselves to rigorous transparency and regulatory rules, therefore being suitable as investment opportunities."

Clearly Cisco fears the Exchange will get carried away by

getting the vast majority of quoted companies.

been treated in the rush to accommodate the demands of the large investment houses.

Last week, shares seemed more like New York. So it was appropriate that Legal & General's investment team had a rethink about Wall Street. It believes New York is overvalued and suggests it will remain so in the longer term although a correction could be near.

If L&G is right, yet another part of the argument for a so-called Footsie remains in place. Forecasts for Footsie to hit 5,000 in a year's time are commonplace: some suggest it could be approaching 8,000 by the millennium.

Turning to this week, Granada heads a hefty list of company results. The half-time profits, expected to come

will have been enhanced by a full contribution from the £3.9bn Forte takeover. The figures, however, will not be the main market

Stiff for sale are nine up market hotels, the Savoy Hotel state and the computer maintenance side. Other bits and pieces are also on the block. There must be a strong probability that Granada will announce at least one disposal with its figures on Wednesday.

Today BAA, the airports group, lands with year's results - around £440m up from £403m - expected before allowing for a £30m hit over the Terminal Five saga.

The water reporting season continues and Hyder and Severn Trent will no doubt stir up predictable Westminster reaction. "Trent, tomorrow, is expected to report a

changed profits of £372m, but its strong balance sheet could tempt a substantial dividend increase. Hyder, the Welsh elec-

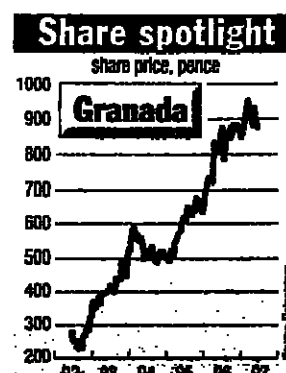
activity and water combine, will also have dividend growth in mind today, with profits some 28 percent higher at £215m. NatWest Securities suspects Savern will increase its dividend by 11 percent and Hyder by 14 percent.

Dairy groups Unigate and Northern Foods are unlikely to offer much in the way of profits cream, but a year of reshaping, Unigate is forecast to be off some £15m at £110m, then it reports today. And Northern Foods, tomorrow, should be marginally higher at £128m.

Among others on the results list are Electrocumponents, which is expected to produce £110m (against £98.9m); Christian Salvesen £80m (£76.6m); FirstBus £57m (£52.4m); British Land £75m (£62.7m); and Meyer Interna-

## DEREK PAIN

## Stock market reporter of the year

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# business & city

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## Centrica puts gas meter business up for sale

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

The business responsible for a million coin and electronic pre-payment gas meters across the country has been put up for sale by Centrica, the demerged British Gas supply operation, in a move which will raise further doubts about the costs of supplying low-income customers as domestic energy competition emerges.

British Gas Trading (BGT),

Centrica's main supply arm, has recently invited offers to buy or run the pre-payment meter operation through a notice in the European Commission's official journal, though the likely price of any deal is being kept commercially confidential. The business, called Quantum after the electronic smartcard meters which are progressively replacing the traditional coin-operated variety, was inherited by Centrica when the old British Gas split itself into two.

The central Quantum office is based in Newcastle and employs around 150 staff, mostly carrying out "back office" tasks, with many employed on short-term contracts. Quantum, which remains a monopoly used by rival independent suppliers as well as BGT, runs around a million pre-payment meters, though according to the Gas Consumers' Council (GCC) only about 900,000 are in use at any time. The decision to hive off the division follows the es-

tablishment earlier by BGT of a joint venture with Group 4, the security group, to offload its main household meter reading business, AccuRead. BGT confirmed it was examining selling or outsourcing the Quantum office. A spokesman said: "BGT is looking at how this operation will run in the future, including a possibility of this service being provided outside British Gas. Investigations into a number of options are at an early stage and the tender-

ing process is only part of that ongoing investigation." The sale comes at a sensitive time for the industry, as the Government has instructed Ofgas, the regulatory watchdog, to review differences in charges for pre-payment customers in competition trials under way in the South of England. The GCC has been increasingly concerned at the apparent reluctance of some independents to supply pre-payment customers, given the additional costs of up to £80.

Sue Slippman, director of the GCC, warned that British Gas would have to invest up to £1m in improving the system before selling it off. "If they want to sell it, they've got to spend money on it first. The issue is about how you get the investment in the system, especially if the Government stops suppliers from cherry-picking more affluent customers. It's a problem for the industry as a whole," said Ms Slippman. The GCC's solution was to

impose a levy on suppliers who had not taken on a proportion of pre-payment customers. John Battle, the Industry Minister, warned last week that "unbundling" costs in the industry should not make the poorest customers worse off, warning of the dangers of "fuel poverty". In one case the GCC found an independent gas supplier was charging 34 per cent more to supply pre-payment meter customers than those on direct debit.

## Railtrack heads for new pay storm

Clifford German

Railtrack looked set to sail into a new controversy yesterday after it emerged that it planned to press ahead with long-term bonus schemes which could reward directors and top managers with free shares worth in excess of £2m two years from now, without seeking shareholder approval.

The news comes just days the rail group faced fierce criticism from John Prescott, the Environment and Transport Secretary, over the announcement of a 27 per cent rise in annual profits to £346m, and the bonus is likely to reignite the row over executive pay in the wake of the dispute between the Heritage Secretary Chris Smith and the directors of Camelot, the operators of the National Lottery.

Railtrack has rejected pressure from PwC, the Pensions and Investments Research Consultants, to comply with the recommendations of the Greenbury Committee report in 1995 and seek fresh shareholder approval. The company argues that approval had been obtained before 1 May last year, while the government was the sole shareholder, and the requirements of the Greenbury report have therefore been met.

The long-term bonuses are not due to be paid until 1999. But they are linked to annual bonuses payable over the next three years which allow directors to pay half their annual cash bonuses into a trust which invests the proceeds in shares. The bonuses cannot exceed 40 per cent of basic salaries. After three years the directors could be entitled to five times the value of funds in the trust.

The exact value would be influenced by the performance of the shares, and also by extra payments approved by the railways regulator to reward reduced delays in railway services. The Department of Transport said yesterday Railtrack had already been awarded an extra £72m for reducing train delays.

The Department of Transport confirmed yesterday that approval for the bonus schemes had been obtained before privatisation and had been mentioned in the flotation prospectus.

## C&W set for key role in China's £6bn float

Magnus Grimond  
and Chris Godsmark

Cable & Wireless, the international telecommunications group, could become the lead corporate investor in the first Chinese telecoms group to open its doors to foreign capital after a Hong Kong flotation which is expected to value it at up to £6bn.

Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, is said to be working on plans for the stock market launch of China Telecom Hong Kong, which is to become the main vehicle by which China Telecom, the state operator, raises outside capital for development.

Such a move would represent an early payback for Dick Brown, C&W chief executive, following Friday's £726m deal to sell a stake in the group's Hongkong Telecom subsidiary to China Telecom, when it was also promised a place as principal foreign investor in CTHK at some stage in the future.

It could also prove the catalyst for Mr Brown to realise his long-cherished aim of gaining membership of Global One,

the rival international telecoms network to BT and MCI's Concert alliance, which includes his former employer, the US group Sprint.

Entry by C&W up to now has been blocked by Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom, which have argued that the British group has nothing to bring to the party. The possibility that it will be the first foreign group to demonstrate a significant presence in the world's most populous country may also pave the way for links with Nippon Telephone & Telegraph, the giant Japanese operator, which has been courted by all the main international telephone groups.

Signs that Friday's China Telecom deal is already thawing relations with Peking came yesterday in suggestions from Hong Kong yesterday that C&W was set to revive talks over the construction of a mobile phone network for the Chinese capital. The company is already working on a fibre-optic link between Peking and Hong Kong, which is set to transfer from British to Chinese control next month. China Telecom Hong Kong will be the largest public share



Man with a message: Graham Wallace, Cable & Wireless Communications chief executive, with a poster in the group's £45m advertising campaign, intended to explain the rationale behind bringing together Mercury and the three cable companies

issue yet of any company with links to mainland China. The plan is for it to have certain assets of China Telecom injected into it before the flotation. Neither Cable & Wireless nor Goldman Sachs would comment on the reports yesterday, but insiders said a flotation of CTHK would be an entirely logical development. One com-

mented: "That company has been set up to take advantage of capital markets in Hong Kong and give foreign investors access to Chinese telecoms developments. Cable & Wireless will be the lead corporate investor in that company [putting] us into a unique position as the only non-Chinese telecoms investor in China Telecom Hong Kong

and through that into the Chinese telecoms market itself." According to C&W that market is growing at the rate of the equivalent of one British Telecom every 15 months. Friday's deal involved C&W selling 5.5 per cent of its 59 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom to China Telecom, with plans to reduce it in stages to

reach parity with the Chinese. Mr Brown promised that this would not be the last announcement on the deal. "This establishes the platform for news to come later. It won't come in the weeks ahead, but certainly in the months ahead. There is much to be done and that's in the interests of both of us." The reports come as Cable &

Wireless Communications launches a single brand to replace those of Mercury, C&W's main UK subsidiary, and the three cable companies with which it has been merged.

By September the separate brand names will have disappeared in an operation which it knows must not confuse the public.

## A hi-tech boom helps the medicine go down

Faced with the prospect of having a needle jabbed into their private parts, most men would politely decline, but until recently such an injection has been the most effective way to cure male impotence.

Then Vivus, a US drug delivery company, found an alternative - packaging the same drug into pellets to be delicately inserted into the urethra - and took half the \$60m world market in four months.

The next improvement could come from Powderject, which will float on the London stock market this month and has a pain-free, needle-less injection. "If all men suffering from impotence had treatment, this would be a \$500m market," says Paul Drayson, Powderject's chairman.

As this example shows starkly, the way a drug is given can matter at least as much as what it does. This is the premise behind the drug delivery industry. The sector has come from nowhere 10 years ago, to capture a \$1.2bn slice of the \$150bn world-wide pharmaceutical market. Moreover drug delivery is growing fast - at 15-20 per cent a year, twice as fast as the wider drugs market.

The product that put drug delivery on the map was a heart pill called Procardia XL. The first version of Procardia, sold by Pfizer, had to be swallowed three times a day, restricting sales to \$400m a year, and in 1989 was about to lose its patent.

In a well-timed move, Pfizer linked up with Alza - a then tiny drug deliv-

er company - which came up with a once-a-day version, reviving Procardia's patent and tripling sales to \$1.2bn. Felix Theeuwes, Alza's president of research and development, remembers the excitement: "We enormously expanded the market for angina drugs. Our technology gave Pfizer its first billion-dollar drug."

The range of delivery technologies today is vast and ingenious. It includes everything from simple skin patches, inhalers, gels and nasal sprays to implants, pills with microchips and contact lenses that release drugs into the eye.

SkyePharma's Geomatrix technology, for example, can release a drug in tablet form immediately, slowly over days or in prescribed bursts so that, say, someone at risk of heart attack could take a pill before bed and get regular doses throughout the night. Elan is developing a smart pill embedded with a microchip and Alza has a titanium implant, no bigger than a matchstick, that leaks out a cancer drug over a year.

The most exciting area in delivery, though, is driven by the biotechnology industry, which is developing protein and peptide-based compounds like insulin. These large and complex molecules have to be given by injection because they are digested if swallowed and are too big to pass normally through the skin.

Among the many companies working in this area, Cortecs is developing insulin and brittle bone pills. Inhale has an insulin dry powder inhaler and Powderject a helium pump which can drive molecules through the skin at three times the speed of sound.

For both patients and healthcare payers, there are huge benefits in all this - the easier a drug is to take, the more compliant a patient will be. Alex Zis-son of US broker Hambrecht & Quist

Company	Market value
Alza Corp (US)	\$2.5bn
Cortecs (UK)	\$277m
Cygnus	\$292m
Dura Pharmaceuticals (US)	\$1.7bn
Elan Corp (Ireland/US)	\$2.5bn
Ethical Holdings (US/UK)	\$78m
Gulfport Pharmaceuticals	\$501m
Inhale (US)	\$307m
Liposome Company (US)	\$993m
Powderject (UK)	\$109m
RP Scherer	\$1.3bn
Shire Pharmaceuticals (UK)	\$198m
SkyePharma (UK)	\$307m
TheraTech (US)	\$237m
Vivus (US)	\$13m

says the cost benefits of improving compliance are central to the delivery sector. "In the US, 28 per cent of hospital admissions can be traced to people not taking their drugs properly."

Glen Travers, chairman of Cortecs, says that less than a third of women prescribed hormone patches for brittle bones stay on the treatment after two years. "The cost to the US government in hospital fees to treat broken bones is \$10bn a year and growing."

For the big pharmaceutical companies, meanwhile, a clever delivery system can extend the patent life of their drugs, generating substantial extra revenues. The number of all-intra with specialist delivery companies is growing.

Alza's Mr Theeuwes says: "It is financially unrewarding for pharma groups to spend millions on their own technologies to improve just one drug." Donald Geaney, president of Elan, says: "Many medicines stay on the shelf because they cannot be delivered properly and this is costly."

Rolf Stahel, chief executive of Shire, sees another reason for alliances: "Research directors in big pharma groups are not enthusiastic about delivery. It does not lead to Nobel prizewinners." Investors, though, should be more excited. While the small numbers of UK delivery companies are normally lumped in with their biotechnology

cousins, as Jo Walton of broker Lehman Brothers points out, their risk profiles are substantially different.

"Delivery companies work on existing chemicals, where all the data - animal tests, safety, which patients to target, which clinical trials to use - are already known. Times to market are shorter and the chances of success are higher." Mr Zissoon agrees: "It takes a delivery company about three to four years to get a drug to market, compared to six years for a normal drug."

Financial risks are also lower. Robert Chess, chief executive of Inhale, estimates his research costs are a tenth those of an average biotech company and with three times as many products, risks are spread.

And as Richard Stewart, SkyePharma's finance director, points out, the development costs of reformulating an old drug are borne by clients, while established sales and marketing teams can push the new version at minimal cost: "All this means more in royalties," he says.

Though royalties can limit upside, companies working in protein delivery or on big drugs stand to gain substantial returns and make profits sooner than most biotechs. So far, their potential is more apparent in the US. According to Ms Walton: "Investors are more cynical in the UK, where hopefuls like Cortecs have not yet made it. In the US there are some huge and profitable companies." UK delivery companies may not be far behind.

## IN BRIEF

### Abbey National rebuffs NatWest

The board of Abbey National rejected the idea of discussing a £25bn merger with National Westminster Bank on the grounds that Abbey would be handed the unwelcome task of integrating the retail banking divisions and taking responsibility for widespread branch closures, redundancies and customer dissatisfaction. NatWest would meanwhile have the more glamorous task of creating an international mega-bank, which City wags christened Westminster Abbey.

Chief executive Peter Birch believes there is no advantage for Abbey to pick up the problems and incur the immense unpopularity for the few hundred million pounds the integration could save. Abbey National's future was more likely to lie in further growth, diversification and acquisitions, a spokesman said yesterday. Its stated aim is to derive 50 per cent of its profit from non-traditional activities by the year 2000. The figure is already 40 per cent.

### Granada dampens expectations of YTT bid

A report that Granada was lining up an imminent bid worth over £600m for fellow north of England ITV group Yorkshire-Tyne Tees was being played down by both sides yesterday. Granada, which is forecast to announce a 31 per cent rise in annual profits to £240m on Wednesday, is thought to have worked out a takeover plan with Yorkshire, but nothing immediate is expected to come of it. Any move this week would come as a surprise to Ward Thomas, as the Yorkshire chairman is not due back from a holiday in the south of France until Thursday.

Separately, Granada confirmed that it had agreed a £45m deal to sell Brown's Hotel in London's West End to Raffles Holdings, owner of the eponymous luxury hotel in Singapore. Brown's, acquired by Granada after the Forte takeover, has during its 160-year life played host to Haile Selassie, Napoleon III and Theodore Roosevelt's last night as a bachelor.

### Work starts on Tunnel Rail Link

Engineering work on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link has begun, the developer, London & Continental Railways said yesterday. Five tunnelling contracts together worth £800m on the 108km high-speed link have also been put out for tender, and the first bid, worth £300m, has already been received. The first contract should be awarded by late summer.

### Computer specialist plans float

AIT, a specialist provider of computer systems for the financial services sector, plans to float this summer. It is expected to sell off 40-50 per cent of its shares by way of a placing through broker Greig Middleton, to raise £10m, of which about £2m will be new money. The company was founded in 1986 by managing director Richard Hicks, who will cut his stake from 45 to 25 per cent, in the year to the end of March last AIT doubled profits to £1.1m.

### Latin America expected to lead growth

The world economy will grow by about 3.3 per cent this year, according to 450 experts polled by the IFO research institute in Munich. Latin America is expected to lead the way with 5.2 per cent, ahead of Asia with 4 per cent, North America 2.8 per cent and Europe 2.3 per cent.

### Publisher set for AIM listing

Holcon Publishing, best known for publishing the Hutchinson Encyclopedia, is planning a listing on the AIM next month. The company was formed from a management buyout of the Hutchinson reference division from Random House in March 1992.

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
	Index	Close	Week's chg	Change 05	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield (%)		
FTSE 100	4645.00	+23.7	+0.5	4693.30	4066.60	3.54			
FTSE 250	4473.20	-22.8	-0.5	4729.40	4462.00	3.84			
FTSE 350	2247.80	+7.1	+0.3	2272.10	2017.80	3.56			
FTSE SmallCap	2280.38	-13.8	-0.6	2374.20	2178.29	3.09			
FTSE All-Share	2206.41	+5.5	+0.2	2230.98	1998.78	3.52			
New York	7418.61	+87.6	+1.2	7383.41	5032.94	1.73			
Tokyo	20485.75	+416.9	+2.1	20611.56	17303.85	0.801			
Hong Kong	14655.13	-102.7	-0.7	14990.90	12055.17	2.891			
Frankfurt	3695.29	+147.4	+4.2	3695.29	2648.77	1.481			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates					US interest rates				
Borrowed funds (0-90 day)					Borrowed funds (0-90 day)				
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year		1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
UK	6.50	7.00	7.05	7.98	7.12	8.15			
US	5.72	6.13	6.54	8.75	6.81	7.01			
Japan	0.47	0.61	2.60	3.15	-	-			
Germany	3.13	3.31	5.79	6.50	6.57	-			
Money Market Rates									
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year		1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
UK	6.50	7.00	7.05	7.98	7.12	8.15			
US	5.72	6.13	6.54	8.75	6.81	7.01			
Japan	0.47	0.61	2.60	3.15	-	-			
Germany	3.13	3.31	5.79	6.50	6.57	-			
Bond Yields									
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year		1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
UK	6.50	7.00	7.05	7.98	7.12	8.15			
US	5.72	6.13	6.54	8.75	6.81	7.01			
Japan	0.47	0.61	2.60	3.15	-	-			
Germany	3.13	3.31	5.79	6.50	6.57	-			
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
	Price	Chg	100% Chg	Price	Chg	100% Chg	Price	Chg	100% Chg
Cable & Wireless	572	73	14.6	De La Rue	384	102.5	27.1		
LASMO	275	30.5	12.5	Coltch	300	42.5	12.4		
Premier Oil	45.8	3.8	8.5	Stanhope	191	22.7	10.6		

CURRENCIES									
\$/£					\$/DM				
	Close	Week's chg	Tr. Yr.		Close	Week's chg	Tr. Yr.		
\$ (London)	1.8275	-0.26c	1.9409	£ (London)	0.6144	+0.09	0.6490		
\$ (N York)	1.8320	-0.9c	1.9433	£ (N York)	0.6127	+0.23	0.6479		
DM (London)	2.8138	+5.77pf	2.8378	DM (London)	1.7289	+3.88pf	1.8301		
¥ (London)	187.751	+0.355	168.266	¥ (London)	115.385	+0.030	109.200		
£ Index	99.5	+1.5	86.1	£ Index	103.0	+1.0	97.3		
OTHER INDICATORS									
	Close	Week's chg	Tr. Yr.		Close	Week's chg	Tr. Yr.		
Oil Brent	17.81	-1.37	18.04	RPI	156.3	+2.4pc	180.9	19 Jun	
Gold	344.45	-0.60	385.70	GDP	108.7	+2.9pc	107.0	26 Jun	
Gold	211.64	+0.73	250.47	Base Rates	-	-	6.25pc	6.75	-





GAVYN DAVIES

The French and German governments tried both fudges and austerity, claiming Maastricht required such action. In the process they succeeded in linking the single currency with recession in voters' minds – an association which could still prove the death knell for the treaty

## Fetish figure that threatens the single currency

The scheduled 1999 start date for the euro is looking increasingly rocky under the impact of twin blows from the French electorate and the German Bundesbank in the past few days. Yet if the Maastricht convergence criteria were interpreted sensibly, as the drafters of the treaty originally intended, then many of the latest difficulties would disappear. It is not too late for European politicians to realise this, and to start talking common sense on this subject, instead of just mouthing meaningless numbers from Maastricht.

On the face of it, the obstacles to the scheduled start date now look formidable. Just as the French have become minded to ask for a looser interpretation of the Maastricht convergence criteria, and for a renegotiation of the Stability Pact, the ability of the Kohl government to make concessions has been heavily circumscribed by its débacle over the Bundesbank's gold reserves.

This is a very menacing combination. It remains to be seen whether the Jospin government will choose to keep its new demands within the confines of what can be agreed by the Bundesbank. If it does not, then delay or cancellation of the project will become possible – as British politicians (always hoping to dance on the grave of Maastricht) have eagerly pointed out this week.

But some of these headaches are really quite unnecessary. They stem from an over-interpretation of the Maastricht budget criterion – an interpretation which has looked politically convenient in several countries for the last couple of years, but which now threatens the entire project. This is how the problem arose.

When the treaty was first drafted, it was recognised that the existence of a single currency would carry inevitable implications

for budgetary policy, and that this would require some form of supra-national policing of the fiscal stances of the member states.

The reason for this is compelling. Once inside a single currency, members would be able to finance budget deficits at a common rate of interest, and under certain circumstances this could mean that highly indebted countries would be able to lean on the creditworthiness of their fellow member states in order to hold down their own borrowing costs.

In order to prevent this "free rider" problem from getting out of hand, the treaty requires that, to qualify for membership of the single currency, countries must show that they have attained "sustainable" budget positions. This means that they must be in a position where their budget deficits are low enough to stabilise their public debt ratios at a prudent level.

So far, so good. No one with the slightest understanding of economics could object to this requirement. And no country with a sustainable budget position (eg Germany) would enter a monetary union with another member state (eg Italy) unless it could be confident that the latter was capable of delivering a sustainable budget position for the indefinite future.

However, in a search to avoid the need for subjective judgments when the final membership came to be assessed, the drafters of the treaty attempted to define in numerical terms what a sustainable budget position might involve. Among other things, they suggested that it should

ideally involve a debt ratio of under 60 per cent of GDP, and a budget deficit of under 3 per cent of GDP. The 60 per cent debt ratio was arbitrarily set at the level which the EU happened to exhibit at the time, and the budget limit was set to correspond to this figure. But just in case anyone should take such arbitrary figures too seriously, the treaty included a number of hedge clauses which were intended to allow subsequent wriggling room, should it be needed.

Unfortunately, however, the German Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, decided to take the 3 per cent limit for the budget deficit absolutely literally, and also to apply it to the 1997 calendar year outcome (which had never been mentioned at all in the treaty).

He did this for a simple reason. Towards the end of last year, it appeared likely that Germany and France would be able to reduce their budget deficits to below 3 per

cent of GDP in 1997, but that Italy would not. Since the Germans felt that it would be politically impossible to sell a monetary union to their own electorate if Italy were included, they aligned upon the 3 per cent limit as an "objective" way of keeping the Italians out of the first round. Dr Waigel went around chanting his "3.0 per cent means 3.0 per cent" mantra, and for a while it became deeply unfashionable to point out that such a literal interpretation of the budget limit was completely contrary to the letter and spirit of the treaty.

This convenient piece of political speak, however, has badly backfired. As the recession has dragged on in both France and Germany, it has become apparent that the 3 per cent budget limit could not be hit in 1997 without either a series of budget "fudges", or some genuine austerity measures which were entirely inappropriate in the economic circumstances.

Governments tried both fudges and genuine austerity, claiming that Maastricht required such action. In the process, the same governments not only brought themselves into disrepute with their electorates, but succeeded in linking the single currency with recession in the voters' minds – an association which was quite unnecessary, and could still prove the death knell for the treaty.

This association was unnecessary because the treaty had clearly foreshadowed that the 3 per cent limit could be waived in case of recession, both by saying that the structural (ie cyclically adjusted) deficit could be taken into account, and by

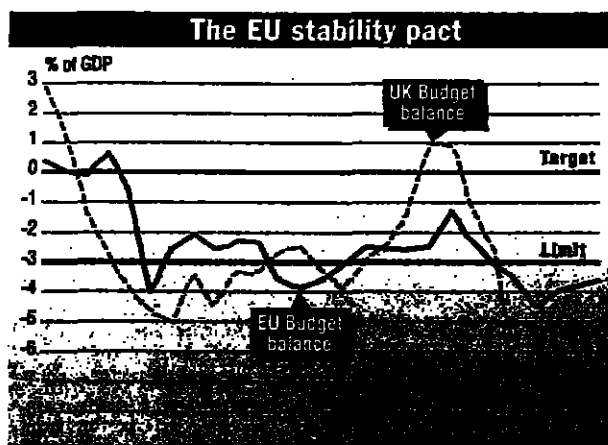
saying that the future prospects for the deficit are as important as the outcome in any given year. The single currency does not need to spell austerity and recession – it is just the politicians who have chosen to make it so.

It would always have been open to the Germans and French – and indeed it still is – to make the following statement: "Germany and France both have sustainable budget positions, as defined by the treaty, notwithstanding the fact that our deficits will exceed 3 per cent of GDP in 1997 for cyclical reasons."

"Both countries have demonstrated over many years that our political systems can maintain this situation. Despite the Herculean efforts of the Prodi government, Italy has not yet demonstrated as much, though significant progress is being made. We therefore intend to proceed to monetary union on time, with Italy hopefully following shortly thereafter."

Probably the UK would call this a "fudge", but it would not be one. Instead, it would be an adult statement of reality, the kind of reality on which countries should really decide whether to form monetary unions with one another. Encouragingly, Wim Duisenberg, who shortly becomes head of the European Monetary Institute, said on Friday that the 3 per cent budget limit was a "fetish", and that what mattered was whether budgets were broadly moving in the direction of sustainability.

Exactly. If France and Germany have the will to follow this line, then the 1999 start date can still be rescued – though, if Lionel Jospin is serious about the inclusion of Italy from the start, then it is hard to see how this formula, or indeed any other, can accommodate his wishes.



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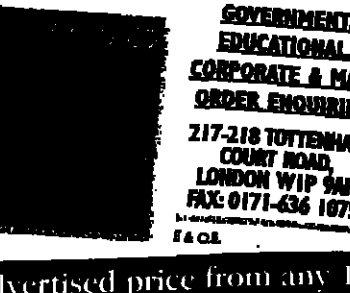
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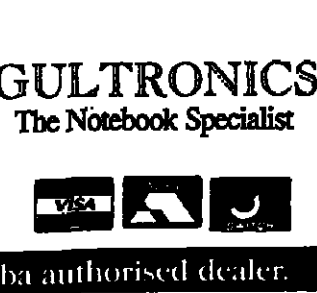
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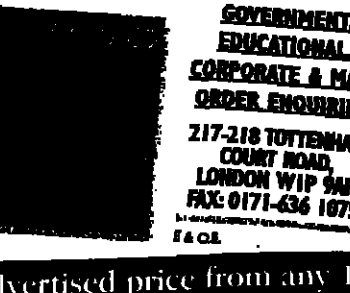


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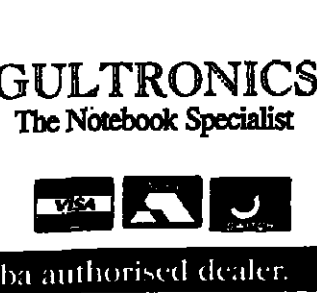
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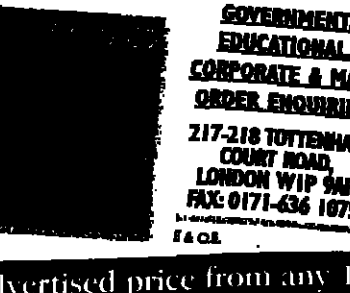
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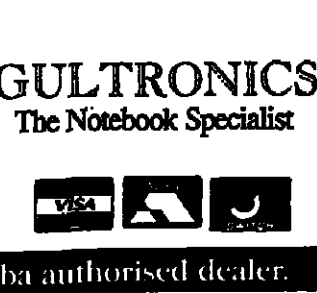
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# The day the gypsies rode into town

**Matthew Brace**  
on Appleby's  
horse fair – the  
biggest event  
in the gypsy  
calendar

They are hounded off the land, their children are turned away from schools and they are treated with contempt by much of society, but this week the gypsies are celebrating their life and traditions in style.

The great horse fair at Appleby is the biggest event in the gypsy calendar. Thousands make the pilgrimage from around Britain, Ireland and the Continent to the small Cumbrian market town beneath the glowering Pennines to catch up with relatives, meet future marriage partners and sell horses.

During the weeks prior to the fair gypsies begin arriving, decorating the nearby lanes with their painted caravans. This year many were not given access to their traditional camp site overlooking the town on Fair Hill, or Gallows Hill as it is also known, until the last minute, causing overcrowding in the roads approaching the town.

Appleby has a festival air about it. Between the painted caravans are trading stalls and fortune tellers and the streets are full of gypsies and hangers-on who come to see a slice of ancient travelling life. In the evenings, the gypsies drink late under light, summer skies and across Fair Hill the sounds of ancient ballads can be heard from the campfires.

But the fair has an altogether more serious side too. It is where old scores are settled. Barely a year goes by without fights between sworn enemies taking place.

And there is the cut-throat business of horse-selling. Horses are washed and groomed along the banks of the river Eden which flows through the town and dealers demonstrate their animals' fitness and strength by running them through the crowds at speed, scattering the on-lookers. Until a recent ban, the horse dashes took place through the main



Ground work: Gypsies on Fair Hill in Appleby ready for this week's horse fair. Travellers have gathered there to celebrate their way of life for centuries (below)

Main photograph: David Rose

streets, their owners shouting for people to get out of the way.

Thousands of pounds change hands on races run over the meadows and lanes where it is common to see horses galloping without harnesses and their young riders sometimes going

bareback. The harness races, with small buggies, also draw the crowds.

Today is one of the main trading days when vital money is earned to see the dealers through the lean winter months of travelling ahead. Some fam-

ilies have been making a living trading horses at Appleby for centuries.

The fair is said to date from 1685 when James II gave Appleby a charter for "the purchase and sale of all manner of goods, cattle, horses, mares

and geldings". However, some maintain horses have been traded in Appleby since as far back as the 13th century. This year's fair, which ends on Wednesday, is expected to attract more than 20,000 people. By Saturday morning, more than 500 caravans had parked up and Fair Hill was already crowded.

Cumbria police, wisely, let the gypsies get on with it. As one duty officer put it on Friday night: "I wouldn't say it was ever quiet round the horse fair. There are always some gypsies who get into fights with old rivals, but they don't involve the public. So far this year it's peaceful."

There are other horse fairs around Britain. Charles Kightly's compendium of traditional festivals and rituals, *The Customs and Ceremonies of Britain*, notes the Barnaby Fair at Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, in late June, one in Brigg, Lincolnshire, in the first week of August, and the West Yorkshire and Dewsbury Fair in late August. But none is as grand and as impressive as Appleby.

Charlie Smith, chairman of the Gypsy Council, an independent rights group, acknowledges that the Appleby Horse Fair and the whole gypsy way of life has been at risk for years but blames the previous government for doing much to make the situation even worse.

"This fair, all our fairs, all our traditions, are under threat. It's not a new thing but since the Criminal Justice Act was introduced, things have got worse," he said.

"We have had far more problems with the laws of trespass which have seen more and more gypsies turned off land."

The trespass laws have allowed police to evict gypsies along with other itinerant travellers and squatters with greater ease.



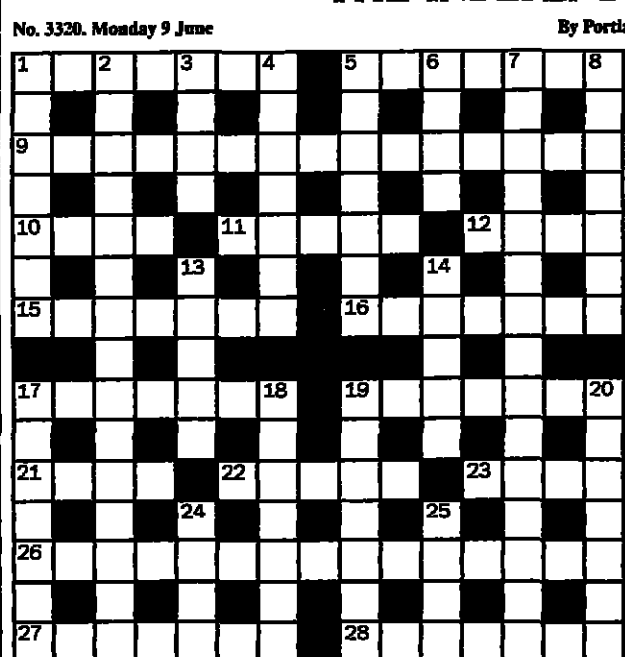
Also, reports Mr Smith, far more gypsy children are being turned away from schools, causing a serious setback to literacy rates and meaning that more travelling families having to find time to educate

their children themselves. He is hoping that Labour in government, as they promised in opposition, will avert the decline in gypsies' rights and he is awaiting a reply from John Prescott, the Deputy Prime

Minister, with whom he has requested talks.

But for this week, politics and hardships are being put aside as the biggest annual show of gypsy solidarity and celebration parties on a Cumbrian hillside.

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



of it (11,4)  
27 Original sign (7)  
28 Shakespearean role that isn't fleshed out? (7)

**DOWN**

1 Woman's doing wrong keeping European duck (7)

2 Artist Colin drove Diana crazy (8,2,5)

3 Wanderer heads off to the other side (4)

4 Result of quarrel (4,3)

5 Look again at safety-first notices (7)

6 Up-beat game (4)

7 There's no way ahead at this point (3,3,2,3,4)

8 Writer's block? (7)

13 Author of French article is taken in by female (5)

14 Illegal act by councillor concealing copy (5)

17 Prophet established a church in West African country (7)

18 Glib talk about a new breed of dog (7)

19 Fetching last quarter's receipts (7)

20 Country cure's drunk without fuss (7)

24 Fairy Queen, Greek character's found gripping (4)

25 Heard of chance to entertain (4)

### ACROSS

1 Isn't close to being financially comfortable (4-3)

5 Okay, Norwegian leader's politically correct (5,2)

9 Go flat out? (2,4,5,4)

10 Backing successful cheese production (4)

11 Nominal fine received by a number (5)

12 Weaken bearing inside and cause crack (4)

15 Definitely suspect denial given at first (2,5)

16 I leave a soldier to deal with naval chief (3-4)

17 Sounds like they tamper with fruit (7)

19 Show house? (7)

21 Enjoy life in Bali very much (4)

22 Scottish explorer put on a jacket (5)

23 Lover of fashion? (4)

26 It's easy to make a meal

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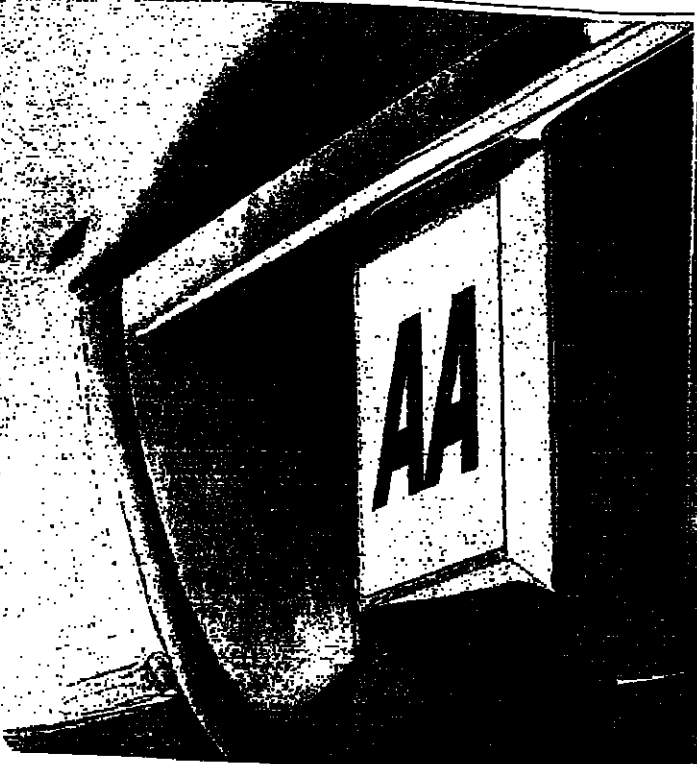
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Kingussie's Dave Anderson (right) has Brian Cheyne of Newtonmore on the back foot as he fires in a shot during Saturday's shinty cup final

Photograph: Trevor Martin

## Risking life and limb for glory

"Hockey," said Jack Turner, choosing his words carefully, "is fairly restricting. In shinty there are no hands, no feet, but everything else is legal."

It was a couple of hours before shinty's cup final, and Turner, a broad shouldered Glasgow policeman, was in contemplative mood. The subject under discussion was what made shinty — or *cannachd* as it is known in Gaelic — so dangerous. It all came down to being able to wield the stick, or cunnen, unfeathered by the petty limitations imposed on hockey players.

This could lead to some fearsome injuries. Turner, who is chairman of the South of Scotland Camanachd Association, said, and to illustrate the point he promptly whipped out his dentures to reveal a chain where his four front teeth should have been.

The toll, too, could be lethal to players who wore no protection. Gordon McIntyre, for instance, lost an eye that way, though it did not prevent him returning to score the winner in last year's cup final. Kingussie, the best side of recent times, had been vanquished on that occasion, but they were back this year, Turner predicted.

and apparently better than ever. The league had been won without losing a game and victory in the Glenamangie Camanachd Cup final would give Kingussie the grand slam.

Shinty is played throughout Scotland but Kingussie's opponents could not have been closer. They came from the next door village of Newtonmore, the two existing in a permanent state of cheerful enmity three miles apart in the game's Highlands heartland. Newtonmore have enjoyed the ascendancy for much of a 100-year rivalry, but Turner like just about everybody else, felt their young side was overmatched on Saturday all the more so because they would be without Ewan Cheyne, their best defender, who was suspended after being sent off a few weeks earlier.

There was just one reason for Newtonmore optimism, Turner said: the Fort William ground which is sighted spectacularly in the shadow of Ben Nevis. Newtonmore, it seems, are the Wimbledon of shinty and like to hit the ball long. "They'll fair the hell out of it," Turner predicted.

**Matt Tench visits the dangerous world of shinty, where on this occasion only a record ended up smashed**

As the teams were welcomed onto the pitch by the pipers, it was possible to detect the similarities to that other cup final — the scarves, the painted faces, the football songs, specially adapted — but what struck you more were the differences. There were no tourists no players' posts and, best of all, no throw-in.

Of the 24 players who lined up ready for the apply termed fit-off, most eyes in a crowd of around 2,000 were focused on Kingussie's Ronald Ross, a legend in the making whose resemblance to Roy Rice goes way beyond the alliteratively obvious.

Ross has enjoyed a prodigious season, scoring more than 70 goals when half that number would normally be regarded as a remarkable haul. His presence in the Kingussie side was not

without its poignancy for Newtonmore supporters, for he might have been playing for them. Ross's mother comes from thoroughbred Newtonmore stock, but his father Ian, a Kingussie player and their manager for the last six years, claimed senior rights and 24-year-old Ronald has been wearing their blue and red hoops since first picking up a sick Newtonmore were a wee bit scarier, said Turner, and you knew what he meant.

Ross was quick to make an impact as battle commenced amid a clatter of cements and blur of extended limbs. Ross's first shot on target came after four minutes, the first came snapped moments later. As Kingussie settled into their rhythm, their No 6 spun neatly in midfield. "Ally Dallas never bought a drink in his life," a man in a thick blue and white scarf muttered darkly.

After 10 minutes, Ross scored, turning impressively before drilling the ball home from 12 yards, and by half-time it was clearly going to be Kingussie's day. Ross had plundered a hat-trick, his attacking partner Kevin Thain claimed two more, and the

favourites were 6-0 ahead. An inexperienced Newtonmore side were making numerous errors at the back and seemed incapable of disturbing a Kingussie defence marshalled by Dave Borthwick with Hansen-like aplomb. The only question for the second half was whether Kingussie would break the cup final scoring record of 11-3 held, naturally, by Newtonmore.

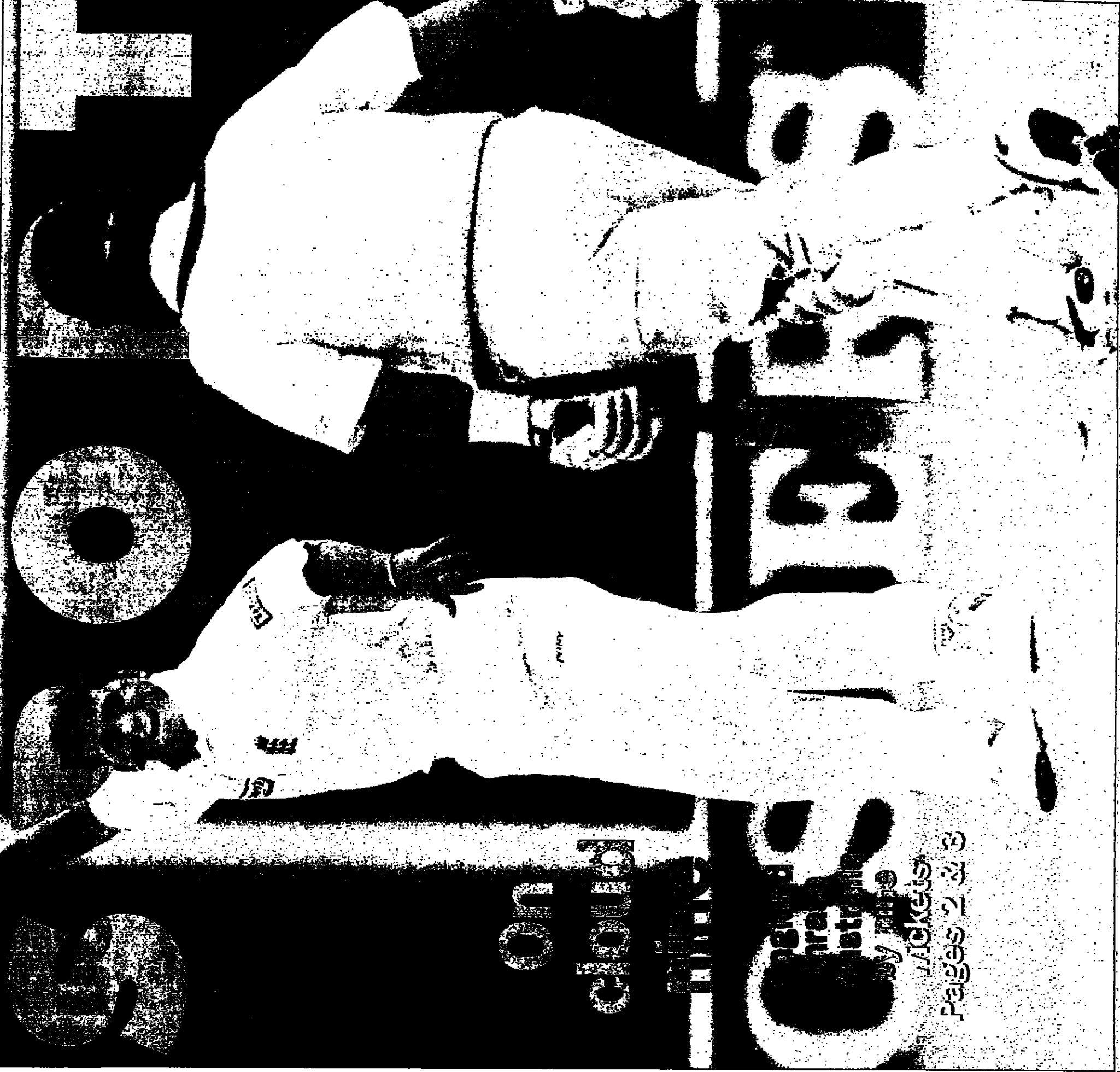
They did, with Ross scrambling home his fifth deep into injury time to secure a 12-1 victory. The rewards in what remains a proudly amateur sport were a handsome cup and a gallon of the sponsor's finest to fill it. For Ross, who would be a millionaire were he similarly successful as a footballer, there was simply the glory and a shrug of the shoulders. "I know footballers earn millions, but they're not as fit as us," he said. His captain, Ali Borthwick, had no quibble with Ross's status as man of the match. "I don't know what Ronald has for breakfast on a Saturday morning," he said, "but I want some." And would Ross go on to be regarded as one of the sport's all-time greats? "I think he is, really is."

## Insider Media+

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THE INDEPENDENT

Monday 9 June 1997



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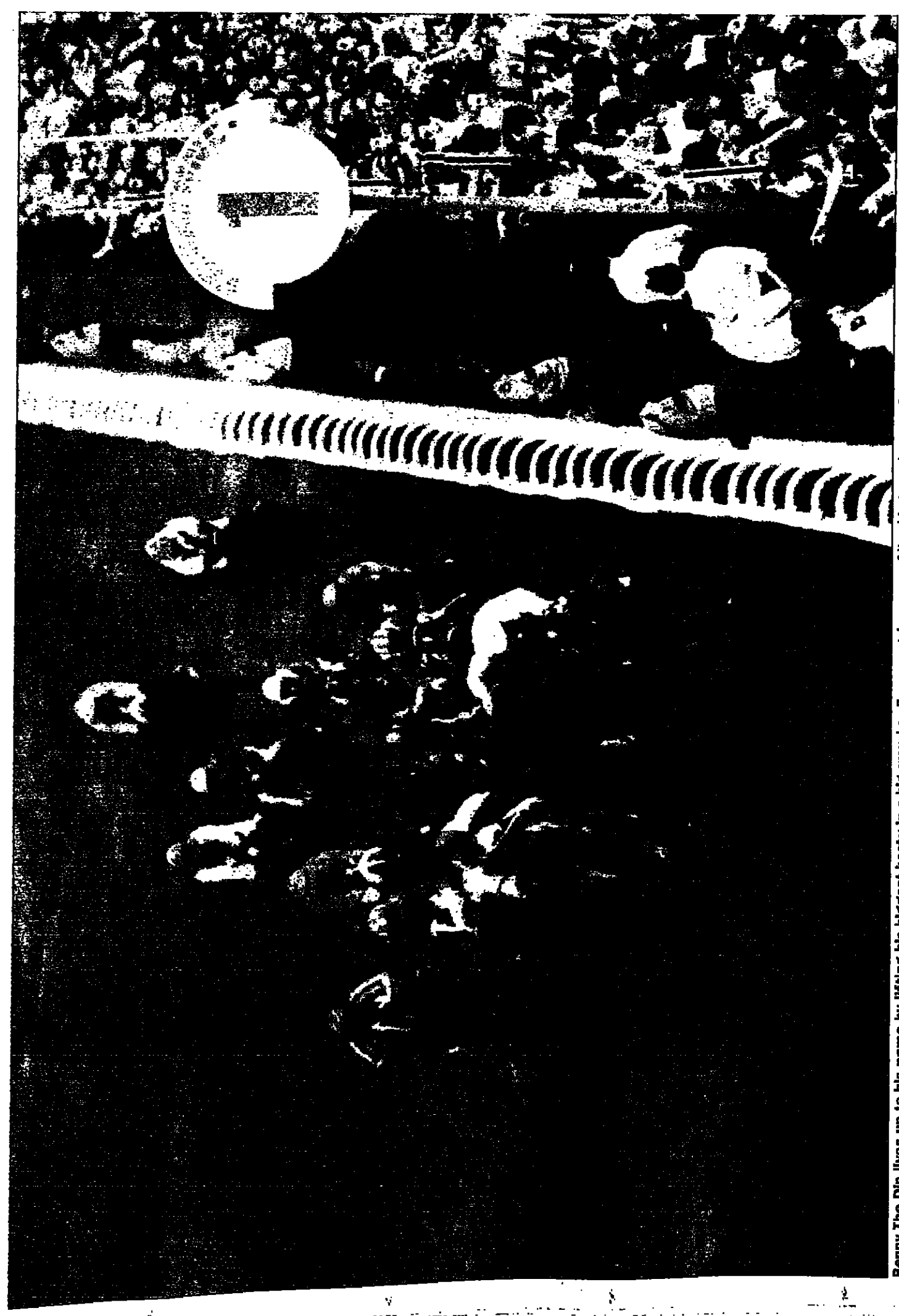




## 845

**Tiger Woods' 67th-place finish in the Memorial Tournament in Ohio was his worst performance in EIGHTEEN tournaments as a golf professional**

# THE DERBY



**Photograph: Robert Hallem**

# Benny and Silver rematch

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**

The money-splashed world of top athletics has provided us with two hilarious head-to-heads this past week, but for those who seek a direct competition of valour and worth the stage of the Irish Derby in three weeks' time beckons enticingly. After morning medical examinations and consultations between connections yesterday, it was announced that both Benny The Dip and Silver Patriarch are due to recreate their compelling duel for Saturday's 218th Derby on the foreign soil of the Curragh. Start packing.

cling to the delusional belief that Entrepreneur, the beaten underdog, will return to prove himself *Pegasus* recharismatic. "I think mine was an unlucky loser," John Dunlap, Silver Patriarch's trainer, said. "He couldn't hold his position and was plumb lost at the bottom of the bill, but he picked up and I thought, 'I'd put him in the last 100.'" *For* *Equi*, Dunlap collected the Derby three times, but he gets as much publicity for the exercise as he does for the exercise he has lost. El Gran Senor in 1984 was a paradigm, but *Stately* too will be depicted by some as another that got away. Silver Patriarch proved as shipshape as

tank was down to fringes inside the final furlong, but just as Silvester's Partridge seemed about to stiff past, the neon-black coat changed his legs and lunged forward in a final act of defiance. As the winner was led back he provided Gledhill with a poignant moment. The trainer occupied the exact spot where his father, Peter, had watched Charlottown return the winner of the 1966 Derby. Towner had prepared the horse to become champion two-year-old, but by Epsom his training career was over, his body ravaged by illness. He died soon afterwards. "Will Gordon Smith monitored the horse's work,

ting off for Chantilly. "I went round with Frankie [Detorfi] to see the horse and he's in great order, so much so that he ate up and had a nip at us," he said.

"I knew he was on top of his game going into the Derby and that anything that went by him would know it had been in a race. But I was still expecting to be second or third. I thought, Entrepreneur would blow us all away."

"I was surprised that he was in trouble as early as he was and I would imagine there was a little technical problem with him. If he had come bounding up with two to run and not stayed you could understand it, but he was

**Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten hits out on**

Kuerten had to do most of the defending early in the third set, fending off four break points before Bruguera began to look shaky again after double-faulting on a game point in the sixth set. The Brazilian took advantage, breaking for 4-2 against on his first match point, flooring the Spaniard into netting a backhand.

The Spaniard has proved himself capable of rallying all day with anyone unwise enough to take him on at his own heavy top-spin game, and Kuerten endeavored to shorten the points with the accuracy of his serve and by winning groundstrokes delivered at precise angles to the corners or down the lines.

He broke Bruguera twice in the opening set, which finished by 28 minutes, and had counted a total of only four points on his own serve in straddling his lead to a set and 3-1.

It was then that Bruguera's relentless pounding began to make an impression. Although Kuerten saved the first break



...this way to Grand Slam victory over Sergi Bruguera yesterday

**Logarithm:** Reuter and the world's elite Sumpras are among the top-class field for this grass court tennis tournament. Henman, and fellow Briton begin their singles

**DOWN.**

# TENNIS

# Kuerten sambas to Paris triumph

**JOHN ROBERTS**  
reports from Roland Garros

An astonishing French Opera drew to a close here in Paris last evening with Björn Borg handing in the Coupe des Monstres, *taillées* to the unsuspected Gustav "Guga" Kuerten, a player barely known outside the Brazilian resort of Florianopolis a fortnight ago.

But it was certainly not the case of Who's Who and What Cares. The 20-year-old Kuerten, whose brilliance frustrated the 16-faced Sir Boga, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, in a 50-minute epic, captured the imagination as well as the majority of the points.

Rarely has a fresh new personality risen to so spectacularly in a sport which craves security. Tall, lithe and downy-chinned, tall like and downy like in terms of artistic and tennis tradition, Kuerten

the samba remains to be seen. Kuerten will certainly have to dress in a more subdued manner than his yellow and blue (shoes and all) outfits which caused the President of the French Tennis Federation, Christian Bargeton, to comment: "We don't want these guys dressing like soccer players."

For yesterday's presentation, Bimbes was accompanied by Bong and the great Argentinean Guillermo "Vieja" who headed the runner-up trip to Brugueira. As Kuerten listed the song, he could have been one of the scruffy, lunkin' midfielders from the Cuapachua, or the Minsfeld. Town captain on a very good day.

Kuerten enjoyed every moment and thoroughly deserved the acclaim. A first-round loss last year, his reputation grew and grew from the moment he returned from U.S. in the fifth set to defeat Mincer in the third round.

ive five-seaters against the Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev and Kieftchuk, the Russian defending champion. A four-set victory against Filip Dewulf, a Belgian qualifier, elevated Kuerten to yesterday's confrontation with Brugnera, the champion in 1993 and 1994.


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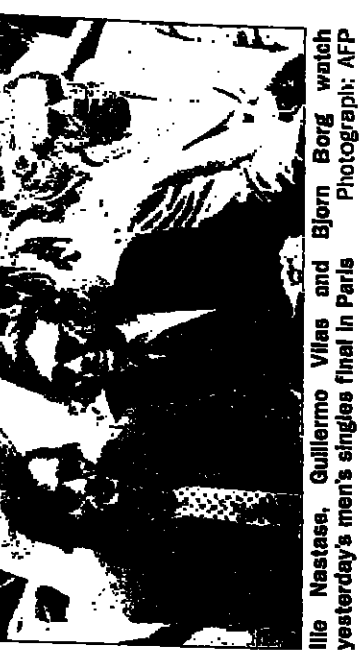
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...his way to Grand Slam victory over Sergi Bruguera y  
...wer won a title [before]".  
...n said, apologising for  
...a bit of a mess of the cel-  
...y bubbly. "That's why I  
...now how to open cham-  
...He seems to be a quick  
...among Kuerten's wife,  
...supporters enjoyed the oc-  
...here more than his  
...n grandmother, Olga



**Yesterday Photograph:** Reuter

■ Tim Horman and the world's top two men, Pete Sumpster and Michael Chang, are among the entrants in a top-class field for the Stella Artois grass court tournament which starts today at Queen's Club, London. Horman, the No. 4 seed, and fellow Briton Greg Rusedski began their singles campaigns tomorrow.



Vilas, Guillermo Vilas and Bjorn Borg watch yesterday's men's singles final in Paris. Photograph: AFP

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**THE INDEPENDENT SPORT - MONDAY 9 JUNE 1987**



S8 England had taken EIGHT Australian players by lunch on the opening day of the first Test at Edgbaston

# Montgomerie races to record finish

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■ Britain's Laura Davies maintained her record of winning a European tour event at least once each year since 1989 when she won the Danish Open at Vejle yesterday. Davies, making her first European tour appearance of the season, shot a closing round of 69 for a nine under-par aggregate of 297. She finished three strokes clear of Swede Marie Horndorf and took her 25th European title. The Australian, Karen Lunn and Marie-Laure de Loraud from France shared third place, a further three strokes back.

Results, Digest, page 23

Monarchs end Bowl hopes for Scots

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL**

TONY TRANTER reports from Murrayfield

Scottish Clydesdales	9
London Monarchs	10



Barcelona's captain, Jon Kline (right) is challenged by Frankfurt's Hilary Butler, Cecil Dogette and Andre Bowden

## Watson puts business before Troon adventure

ANDY PARRELL

There is a reason why the Amateur Championship is named as it is, and not as the Pro-Am Open. Once in a while a career amateur comes along for whom winning the title is the pinnacle of their golfing endeavours, rather than a stepping stone to supposed fame and fortune in the professional game.

Some time today, Craig Watson will turn up at the shipyard in Falkirk where he works. "I get all the time off I need to play golf," he said. He will certainly be out of the ship for three weeks, the Open Championship at Royal Troon next month, the Walker Cup match at Quaker Ridge, New York, in August, and next year's US Masters at Augusta National.

The Amateur champion is usually invited to the first major of the year, and usually turns professional on the Friday night of Masters week. As Gordon Sherry found out last year, and Warren Bradshaw this year, that leaves them in a golfing no-man's land. Watson, 31, will have no such worries. Instead, his August trip means a few self-deprecating anecdotes to tell the customers the following week.

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## Faldo makes his move

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London Monarchs effectively ended the Scottish Clydesdales' hopes of a place in the World Bowl with a narrow victory here yesterday. In front of a crowd of 16,115 - the biggest regular-season attendance at Murrayfield - the Monarchs' defense held firm to frustrate the Clydesdales.

The Scots were looking for a big win as Rhein Fire had beaten Amsterdam Admirals 24-0 on Saturday, but it proved to be beyond them.

Tony Watson ran in a touch-down late in the first quarter for the Monarchs and the former Tottenham and England striker Cive Allen kicked the extra point to give them a 7-0 lead.

The Clydesdales clawed their way back into the game, with their Finnish kicker Kari Gronroos scoring a 30-yard field goal to make it 7-3, but Allen kicked a 23-yard field goal to stretch the lead to seven points again.

However, in the final second of the first half Gronroos scored another field goal to make it 6-10. Then, with four minutes left of the fourth quarter, Gronroos managed a 35-yard field goal to cut it to a single point. But the Finnish kicker failed on a 28-yard attempt in the fourth quarter - a miss which proved all too costly.

In Germany on Saturday, Bobby Phillips scored two touchdowns as Frankfurt Galaxy came back for a 29-17 win over the World Bowl finalists, Barcelona Dragons.

The Dragons led 10-0 in the first quarter on Jesus Arcey's 31-yard field goal followed by Jon Kline's two-yard pass to Sheldrick Wilson.

Frankfurt then took control of the game, jumping to a 21-10 half-time lead as Phillips burst up the middle for scores of 4 yards and 1 yard, the second coming with 17 seconds left.

Frankfurt announced before the game that they will not be renewing the contract of head coach Ernie Stautner next season, citing differences with team manager Christopher Heyman. Stautner, 72, led the team for three years, leading them to World Bowl appearances in 1995 and 1996.

In Düsseldorf, Derrick Clark matched for two touchdowns Saturday as Rhein Fire beat Amsterdam Admirals 24-0. Clark, a former Denver Broncos player, scored on short runs of 12 and nine yards in the first half for his seventh touchdown in the past three games.

## Halifax thrashed

DAVE HADFIELD

British misery in the World Club Championship continued Down Under, with Halifax and Salford both on the wrong end of record thrashings.

Halifax were hammered 70-6 by Canberra Raiders - the club's biggest-ever score. The New South Wales full-back, Ken Nibbs, scored six tries - another record.

"Our lads were overawed," the Halifax manager, David Hobbs, said. "We gave Canberra hardly did much better at Adelaide, losing 50-8 to give the home side the first half-century of their short history. Salford were only 16-8 in return with half an hour to play, with their test players, Gary Broadbent, scoring their only try. But they fell apart in the closing stages to allow Adelaide to play exhibition rugby."

"I'm sorry the fans didn't see the real Salford," said their coach, Andy Gregory. "My lads had trouble with the speed of their play. The British game is not as committed or intense as its Australian equivalent."

The impetus for any face-saving in the first round of fixtures now lies with Halifax and Salford, who both play their opening games today.

Wigan will not risk Terry O'Connor's ankle at Cardiff, but still have an invaluable nucleus of players who know what top-class international competition is all about. The European Super League-leading Bulls hope, not for the first time since his foot injury at Wembley, to have Robbie Paul in action against Penarth tonight.

The St Helens captain, Bob Goddard, will decide this week whether to bring forward an operation for a hernia. Goddard was planning to put off the surgery until after the tour of Australia, but will instead be returning with England to play as Great Britain.

"This is the final nail in the coffin of the Welsh team and an insult to all the players who have played over the years," Nicholas said. "I smacked of the International Board trying to manufacture a competition for television and local supporters."

## Castelford and Paris denied taste of glory

Castelford and Paris St-Germain briefly had hopes of claiming the honour of becoming Europe's first winners in the World Club championship yesterday, but Ca's lightning attack on Perth Reds was thwarted by a late try that gave the Australians a 24-16 win, and Paris, in front at one stage, went down 28-12 to at home to Hunter Mariners.

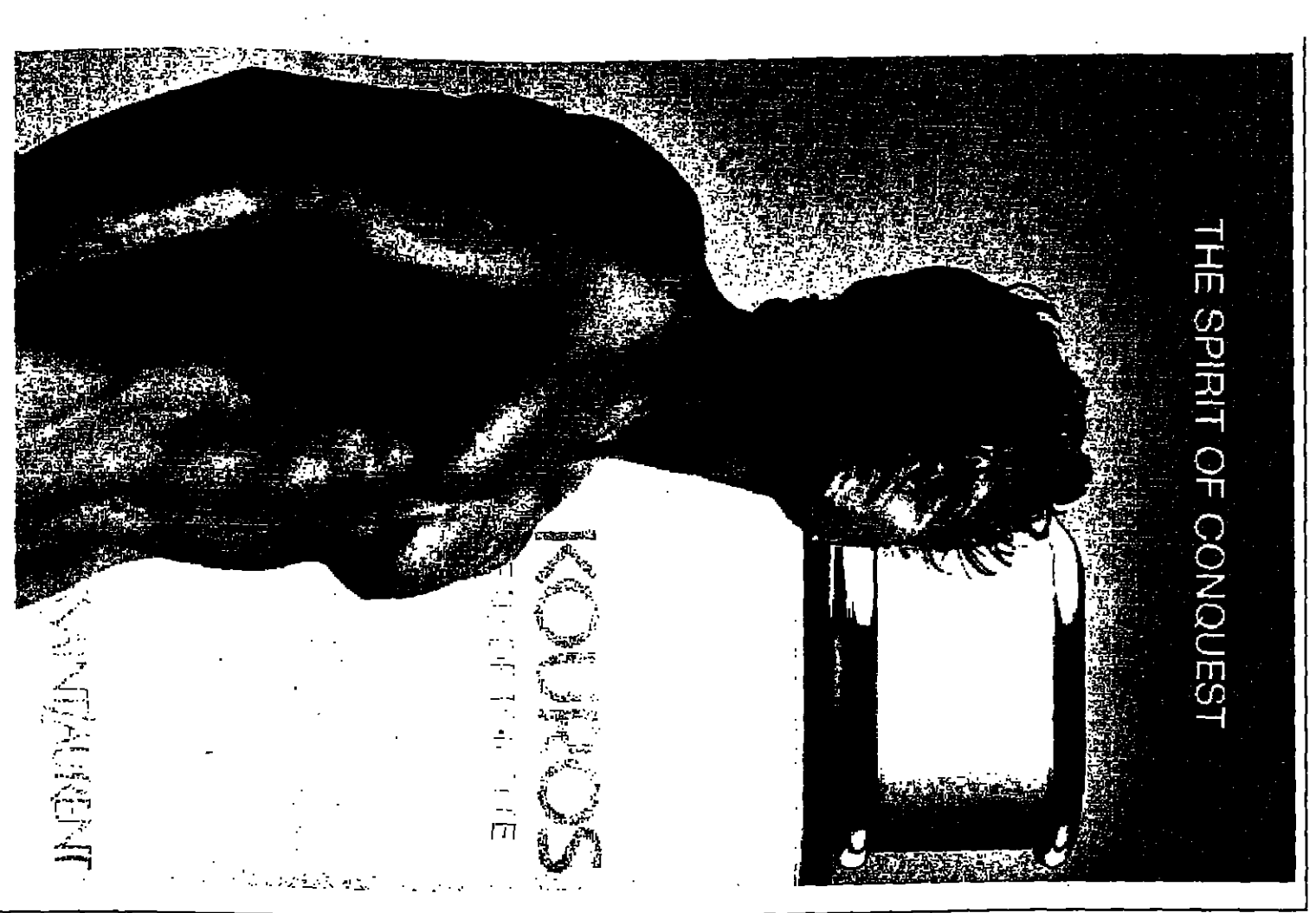
Ca had their improved form early on. After only five minutes, the Perth second row forward Peter Shide went over, then the second row John Gieve dived over to make it 18-0, as Chris Ryan converted three out of three.

Castelford rediscovered their best form just before half-time, when a burst by Brendan Tuite led to Jason Critchley putting four points back. A change from the second row, Ian Tonks, who also converted, brought six more points, and a shock looked possible as David Chapman went over. Danny Orr's boot brought the 17-4 lead.

Yet it was to be short-lived, and once the ex-Wigan and New Zealand centre, Kevin Ho, broke down, it was a formality for Rugby. Ross to score the second Hunter try four minutes later.

The Mariners added a touch-down from centre Bradley Godden, another from the second row, when Adam Ryan put the match beyond PSG's reach.

However, the biggest cheer of the afternoon came when the French winger, Fabien de Vercbi, won over for a 60th-minute try for Paris.



THE SPIRIT OF CONQUEST

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Monarchs end Bowl hopes for Scote

# Montgomerie races to record finish



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## \$16 Alan Shearer has scored SIXTEEN goals in 34 appearances for England

# Strang and McCague keep Kent on track

DAVID LLEWELLYN reports from Tunbridge Wells Kent 177 Warwickshire 145 Kent win by 32 runs

Kent's steady season continues. Second in the championship, a Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final tie against Northamptonshire tomorrow and yesterday's comprehensive victory over Warwickshire, which leaves them comfortably placed in the Sunday League.

They owed their success as much to some fine bowling as to a solid contribution from the batsmen. Indeed, there was one spell when Martin McCague and Paul Strang, doing a good job, had a day out - McCague as a batsman and Strang as a bowler. Strang's bowing was not perfect, but he was a valuable part of the Kent attack. He was a bit of a nuisance to the Warwickshire batsmen back into the pavilion in successive overs. And that was that really.

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## CRICKET



Kent's Trevor Ward attempts to hook Graeme Welch of Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells yesterday

## Newport back in swing

Anyone glancing at the averages going into the latest round of championship matches would have seen a familiar name back on top of the bowling section - after a year of injury torment.

Former England pacesman Phil Newport missed two thirds of last season with an Achilles problem which flared up on Warwickshire's pre-season trip to Barbados.

His guile and experience were desperately missed by a side already going through a rebuilding process after the glory years of Ian Botham and Graham Gooch.

But now 34-year-old Newport is back with no apparent ill-effects and he has moved past the 800 first-class wickets mark and, with three years left of his contract, could conceivably reach the magical 1,000 figure.

A seven for 37 haul against county champions Leicestershire showed Newport has lost none of the skill which makes him arguably the best swing bowler in England given the right conditions.

Newport, who made his Test debut against Australia at Headingley in 1989, said: "Last season was so frustrating, and it's nice to be back playing. When you've had a time away you tend to enjoy it a bit more. Thankfully there has been no reaction to the injury. There have been a few niggles but nothing that has stopped me from playing, and I've been quite pleased with the way the bowling has gone generally."

"As a swing bowler you need to regain that rhythm and swing - and if you get that going you are going to get wickets on any surface. As long as there is a decent carry through to the wicket-keeper then I always fancy my chances. You might see a little bit of zip as you get older but you can make up for that with experience."

## \$9

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CRICKET

England v Australia

First Test (day 1)

England: 107 for 0, 21.1 overs

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## SPORT

# Gunnell getting better all the time

Britain's former Olympic champion Sally Gunnell, now back in action after her injury at the Atlanta Olympic Games, clocked 55.36sec to finish second in the women's 400 metres hurdles at the International Amateur Athletic Federation's Znamensky Grand Prix in Moscow yesterday.

The race was won by Rayana Tereshchuk of Ukraine with a time of 54.96, but for Gunnell it was an improvement on her performance in Rome last week where she was fifth in 55.52.

At the same meeting Donetsk's Bailey set a superb 100 metres to Nigeria's Davidson Ezinwa. The Canadian world record-holder finished in 10.28sec to Edwina's 10.30. The race began moments after a torrential thunderstorm had finished.

Igor Kovac of Slovakia took the 110m hurdles in a photo-finish with Britain's Tony Jarrett. Both were checked at 13.35. In another tight finish, Kenya's David Kiptoo won the men's 800m in 1min 44.57sec, just 0.05sec ahead of Hendrik Mogonyesi of South Africa. Vincent Malakwen of Kenya was third in 1:44.75.

The world champion, Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic, won the javelin with one of the season's best throws of 86.92m. The double Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova of Russia won the women's 800m in 1:50.29, and Russia's Irina Bilyukova took the women's 1500m in 4:05.70 on the floodlit track.

The women's 400m was a competition between two Nigerians and six Russians - who finished in that order. Bisi Alolade of Nigeria won in 50.55sec, followed by her compatriot Fatima Ogunkoya in 50.79. The fastest Russian was Olga Kozlovskaya at 51.40.



Out of this world: Michael Doohan on his way to victory in the French Grand Prix yesterday

## Annans golden gift to Australia

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## SPORT

# Gottlieb breaks Italy's Giro drought

26-year-old Gottlieb, wearing the race leader's pink jersey he captured in the 14th stage, he finished in the same time as Cipollini, only 110 made it to Milan.

Chris Boardman won the previous year's Dauphine Libere for the fourth year in a row in the stocks of Coferte's stage. The world's fastest man, who won the 1997 Tour de France, finished in 58sec. Alex Zülle of Switzerland was second, three seconds behind, with another time trial specialist, the Russian, Yury Chirchakov, third.

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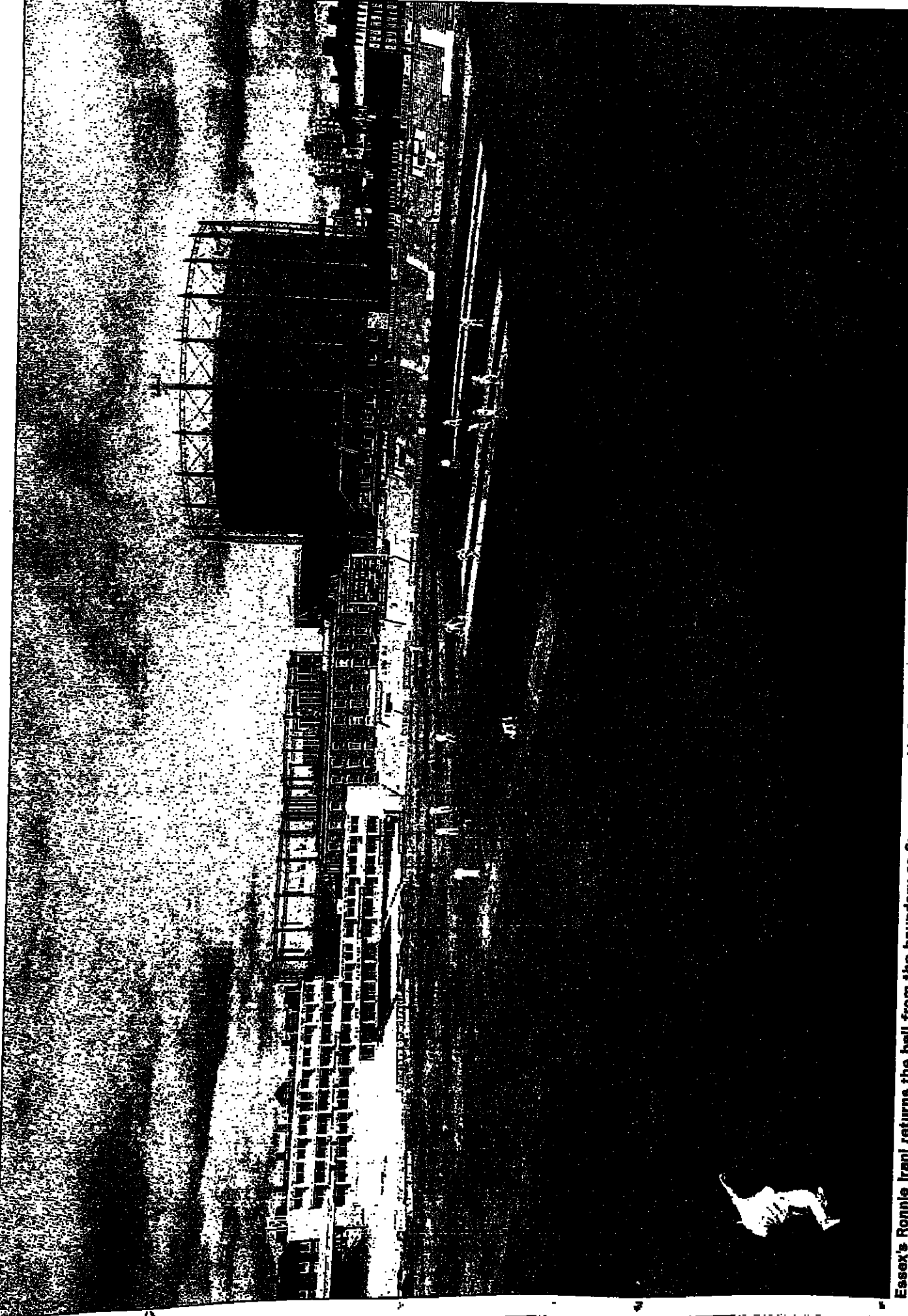
THE WEEK  
AHEAD

They'll never forget  
their first time

# Extra Cover

A week in cricket by Jon Culley

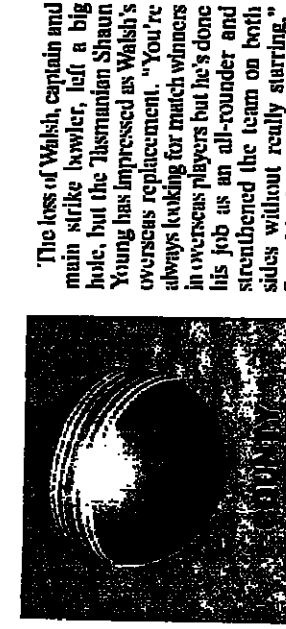
**\$14** **CRICKET**



Essex's Ronnie Irani returns the ball from the boundary as Surrey scramble for runs at The Oval on Saturday. Essex won by 147 runs

## Smith's swing fires leaders

Photograph: Peter Jay



What is it about Championship cricket that inspires the meek and humbles the mighty? Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire won again on Saturday, and are now first and third in the table, while Lancashire and Surrey, on paper the two most powerful teams in the land, are 15th and 16th.

Continuity of selection must be a problem at Old Trafford and The Oval, with so many players involved with England, but you would have thought they would be used to that by now; and the players that are left are not exactly chuffers.

Of the two, Lancashire's poor showing is slightly less surprising; they finished 15th last season and have not won the Championship for 63 years. Even so, defeat by Somerset inside two days - one of them considerably worse - put them in a bit of a shock.

There should be some sympathy for Surrey over their latest defeat, by Essex at The Oval: they had four players on England duty and another three were injured just before or during the

match. But they still had three England bowlers standing at the end of the game, which is three more than either Gloucestershire or Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire, well heeled by Kent the previous week, bounced back with a victory at Northampton, thanks largely to a second innings century by Matthew Dawson. His record score of 267 for England Under-19 against West Indies Under-19 in 1993.

You have to go back to the 7th Championship success - 1877, to be exact. But they returned to the top of the table after completing victory by 164 runs over Yorkshire at Headingley, Mike Smith taking 10 wickets in the match.

After a bumpy ride through the winter, when they lost two key players, Courtney Walsh and Andrew Symonds, and a new captain seemed hard to find, this is hardly the sort of start they could have expected.

done well and Tony Wright looks as though he's coming to a bit of form at Headingley.

"As far as I'm concerned, Robert Culliford started last year as an England A prospect, but he had domestic problems with his mother battling seriously ill, which unfortunately blew him apart.

But now he's come out and followed it on again this year.

"If you read all the pre-season reports we weren't going to bowl a side out, we couldn't do that, but we just said, right, we're going to bowl line and length and keep plodding away. We do believe we've got a match winner in Mike Smith who, as long as the ball swings, is one of the most dangerous bowlers in the country."

Victor Trumper, captain and main strike bowler, led a big pile, but the Nottinghamshire Young has impressed as Walsh's overseas replacement. "You're always looking for match winners in overseas players but he's done his job as an all-rounder and strengthened the team on both sides without really starting."

"It has been very encouraging. If you read all the pre-season reports we weren't going to bowl a side out, we couldn't do that, but we just said, right, we're going to bowl line and length and keep plodding away. We do believe we've got a match winner in Mike Smith who, as long as the ball swings, is one of the most dangerous bowlers in the country."

Last season it was the batting which was the problem. "We just didn't get the runs in the right place," Steward said. "This year we've got there or thereabouts. Nobody has got four or five hundreds, but Nick Trainor has

conjured with a leaf out of Vince Wells taking a leaf out of

## SPORT

### Lions accept Gibbs' historic suspension

**Rugby Union**  
**CHRIS HEWITT**

It was the sort of punch that occurs a dozen times in any game of rugby league, but Scott Gibbs is not playing league any more. Yesterday, the Welsh centre became the first Lion ever to be suspended after being found guilty of thumping Grant Esterhuizen, the Northern Transvaal back, during Saturday's contest at Pretoria's Loftus Versfeld Stadium.

Gibbs, banned for one game, will miss Wednesday night's match with Gauteng in Johannesburg and may now struggle to make the side for the first test with the Springboks in Cape Town a week on Saturday. A hot favourite for a Test place at the start of the tour, Gibbs has played only 60 minutes of rugby in just over a fortnight and is beginning to run out of opportunities to make the required impression.

The incident happened at a ruck in the final quarter of the Lions 35-30 defeat at the hands of the Blue Bulls - their first reverse after four victories on the bounce. Esterhuizen spilled the beans to the Northern Transvaal management, who immediately decided to cite Gibbs under the terms of the tour agreement. A citing committee, publicly determined that the Welshman had a case to answer and, as a result, yesterday's disciplinary panel was convened under the chairmanship of Hesketh Daniels, a Pretoria-based High Court judge.

Gibbs was instructed not to comment on the matter and Fran Cotton, the Lions' manager, was hardly more forthcoming. "We've had a fair hearing and there will be no appeal," he said. "From the Lions' point of view, no further action will be taken against Scott. There is nothing more to be said."

Judge Daniels' panel, which also included Oluf de Meyer, a Pretoria attorney, and Muck van Vuuren, a former general manager of the Northern Transvaal Rugby Football Union, accepted that Gibbs had a particular history of violent conduct, which enabled us to enjoy four handsome wins. This has proved a big challenge for us, and maybe things change up with us in the end."

He admitted that Mike Cunniff and Nigel Redman being called up by the British Lions had disrupted England's preparations for the second Test. "It is a wonderful thing for them to join the Lions, but it didn't do anything for our Test team," he said. "Their combined loss highlighted the lack of experience in this squad and seriously dented our offering yesterday."

Ten players made their England debuts during the tour, giving the England coach, Jack Rowell, a solid base from which to build his 1999 World Cup squad. Rowell, however, is still waiting to hear whether the services are required after the first match in Australia next month.

"I honestly don't know - you will have to ask the powers that be," said Rowell, whose contract that he will be offered a 27-year deal, commencing with the World Cup campaign.



Scott Gibbs, banned for one match and told to curb old rugby league instincts

ment has already signalled its intention to pursue the matter further. If officials fail to crack the whip, whose left knee was effectively shattered by Bosman's cold-blooded stamp at a ruck, flew back to Britain on Saturday night and will undergo surgery as soon as date can be fixed. The popular Scotsman still has an outside chance of recovering in time for his country's programme of autumn internationals, but it is more likely that he will be ruled out until Christmas.

Phil de Glanville, the England captain, said that the turning point had been a defensive blunder between Jim Mallinder and Adedayo Adenle, which gifted Facundo Soler a soft try in the 31st minute. "That was the killer," de Glanville said. "We had just started to play well, gathering momentum and gaining a sense of direction when that score knocked us back wards."

"The loss of an influential fly-half and key second-row forward was clearly going to make a big difference. But there can be no excuses. Argentina throughly deserved their victory. I would have settled for 1-1 in the first half before going to Argentina and, overall, I was proved a great

Argentina's best player, said: "Argentina's defence was superb. We were dragged us into the game they wanted to play. We were under intense pressure, but this result is not the end of the world. We will learn our lessons from the defeat and go home heading a wealth of talent for the next World Cup."

Alex King, the Wasps fly-half who became the 10th new cap on the tour when he replaced Mallinder 20 minutes from time, summed up England's determination. "I was so hungry to make my debut and enjoyed every minute of it," he said. "It was a memorable experience, especially as I managed to score a try, and the challenge now is to try to retain my place as part of the squad."

Argentina's Steve Sneyd, a Gloucestershire fly-half, said: "I was

### Lions trampled underfoot

overnight racing ending 15th, by contrast, apart from one 11th place. Friese never finished below fifth.

By the end of the week Merriks and Walker were renaissanceing the work to be done in terms of boat-handling and new skills. After a dauntingly contrasting fortnight in Italy they turned round at the end of the regatta to sail the boat the 250 miles to Cagliari in southern France, from where it will be shipped back to England. That provides some more offshore work, and they will also compete in one or two of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's Channel races at the end of this month.

Mumm's silver medalists last year, Merriks and Walker set themselves and others high standards, but are having to do a lot in a short time as they make the switch from Olympic dinghy sailing to an eight-man keelboat. Kostecki, one of the world's best, said the British pair a big compliment when he said he respected them. But he added that they were still prone to making the small mistakes which, in such a tight fleet, would quickly be exploited by merciless rivals.

Russell Coutts, the world's No 1 match racer and winner of the America's Cup for New Zealand, who was helping one of the German entries, described the regatta as one of the best one-design competitions, and Friese's victory as "one of the most impressive performances I have ever seen."

Coutts, and many people's worry is whether the Mumm 30 will be given an early nod to compete in an Admiral's Cup race beyond this year. Some would even like to see it fill two or three of the slots in the three-hour Admiral's Cup teams.

Results, Sporting Digest, page 23

### Friese turns up the heat

**Sailing**  
**STUART ALEXANDER**  
reports from Punta Ala, Italy

For Germany's Thomas Friese it was a second consecutive triumph at the very highest level, but for Britain's John Merriks and Ian Walker the Mumm 30 World Championships here was a disappointment.

Friese is nothing if not determined, and to his campaign he brings organisation, budget and top-level players. In an 18-boat fleet coaxing Olympic medals and America's Cup talent his 1998 team was still a league apart. With the New Zealanders Gavin Brady on the helm and the American John Kostecki calling tactics they finished nearly 20 points clear of their nearest rivals.

Strangely, Friese did not win a single race in a series of 10 short inshore sprints and one 9.4-mile overnight race, but his consistency of performance, and results reflecting nearly three years of racing all round the world and confirmation today as the No 1-footer in Germany's Admiral's Cup team.

Richard Friese was the America's Cup team's skipper, with Chris Larsen and Dee Smith winning three races, while in third was the Italian team member Friese, steered by Tammann Chief. A second by famous names were out of the silverware, with New Zealand's Georgia Express fourth overall with David Hannes securing.

Seventh place overall for Merriks and Walker was outside their goal of a top-five finish. Hardier in the week, they had been pleased at the way things were going, including a win in the second race and a second place in the fourth. All the time they were learning, though they had an unhappy introduction to

# WIN

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meets Jacques  
Villeneuve, the  
Formula One  
leader not  
afraid to speak  
his mind

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the difference between IndyCar and Formula One. "Safety's important in IndyCar, but they don't get sick over it like what's happening in F1," he says. "On the political correct, in F1 you have to say that everything just to

be asked, "He's all got at a speed of [240km/h] 75mph." And he says, "Well, I know what it is, but I'm not going to tell you how much fuel it's not because of Roland Ratzschberger. It's because of Ayrton Senna."

"A lot of people ask me if it was him after Ayrton's death, and I say, "No, it was hard after Roland's death, because he was a friend," and they reply, "Oh yeah, yeah, but what about Ayrton?" "He shakes his head at this and looks down at the table.

How does the respect to people who say he wasn't around Formula One when Senna died at Imola, and therefore should not be pressing for less safety? "I say that I lost my father to motor racing, so I know what I'm

...fifty years ago there was less money involved in Formula One so it didn't rule your judgement. When I cross the finish line my only thoughts are about whether I've won or not. I don't think of the money. That's why the drivers in the past were more like cricketers should be. They reacted hard and spoke their minds.

This Villeneuve clearly reckons, is not the case today. "People miside the sport, and I'm talking team owners as well, should learn more about saying what they believe in so that they can have an influence. There are too many people in the sport today who kinda blith about

One man, hypothetical question, I'm sure to read him at a computer game like Space Invaders, what would happen in the return match one week later? Villeneuve, already on his way to join team bosses, stops in his tracks, turns round and looks me straight in the eye.

"I'd head you," he said, delivered with utmost certainty. "No, without a doubt."

"How can you be so sure of that?" I ask.

"I'd practice that ship, every single day to make sure," came the reply as Jacques Villeneuve delivered a self-conscious smile. "That's why I'd win."

**Hand of God – The Life of Diego Maradona**  
by Jimmy Burns  
(Bloomsbury, paperback, £6.99)

Imagine. You've just done a bit on Diego Maradona. Heard him fair, you feel, not less blessed to the Robinson than Goldman for his Lemon. It's all there: the drugs, the exploits, the troupe of illicit little Diggers round the cage, the race at Ascot, and the bludge to the Camera, the cage the race at Ascot, and you want to give him a copy, in person. "Maradona is one word for it," Philip, an "stupid" ex-two-chin's.

But Jimmy Burns, whose *History of the First* came out last year and is now out in paperback, did deliver a copy to the object of his attentions, in an Italian restaurant in London. Maradona was "unruly whether to entertain me or break my nose," he reports in a postscript entitled, just in case, there's any confusion, "The Slow Death Of Diego Maradona." A few days after the London meeting, the word must've reached his nephew in Spanish nation, telling the world: "Burns has played all night on his hotel floor, after a drinking spree," he was stranded in his hotel floor by a power failure, kicked the lift down until the first floor and

on his release by Freeman spent the rest of the night knocking the hotel furniture and screaming.

The story Johns tells is of a man who could never have been just a footballer. He has always been commended for more sinister purposes, from the early days where the Argentine regime used him as a distraction from their various depredations (and he narrowly avoided being sent to Shetfield United), through to US/SA, when Fitch, needing his presence to help seal the nomination to the Americans, assigned its general secretary Stepp Blatter to make sure his frontier negotiations from Norfolk to Seattle went smoothly and that he was not back to the game.

Football matches were arenas for other battles; his single-handed victory over England in 1968, for example, was less a World Cup quarter-final, more a nation's revenge for Jimmies Watson's death in the Midlands, during a tunnel investigation project. It was less worked hard and the book is examined with detail. It's easy to overdo the "tangle-trove imagery" and Burns seems well clear of precocious, though there could be a little more interest at explanation to go with all the exposition. And at times it does stylistically, like a dead translation.

—John Lanchester

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2 *Heart of Oak* - the Little Broom (large waistcoat, shiny coat) (bromusdy paperback, £16.95)  
3 *American 1997* - the American Olympic Track and Field Annual, edited by Peter Smith (The Sports Books Ltd, paperback, £14.95)  
4 *Brainium*, Charles Williams (Theobis, paperback, £7.99)  
5 *1997 Annualised Competition*, edited by Alan Lute (A League of Gentlemen Club paperback, £7.50)  
6 *Lord of the Wind Yekka*, Simon Hughes (Headline, paperback, £16.99)  
7 *Formula One Grand Prix Pocket Annual*, Bruce Smith (Vingit paperback, £4.99)  
8 *Jack Russell Unleashed... Barkin'!* Jack Russell with P. Murphy (Collins Wivox, hardback, £15.99)  
9 *Northeast Playfair Cricket Annual 1997*, edited by Bill Frithsday (Headline, paperback, £4.99)  
10 *Walk on the Wild Side*, Dennis Rodman with Michael Stiver (Dalecon Press, hardback, £15.99)

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